

COMBATANTS WILL BE
DISPATCHED!



暁なつめ
NATSUME AKATSUKI

ILLUSTRATION
カカオ・ランタン
KAKAO LANTHANUM

戦闘員、派遣します!

Combatants Will Be Dispatched

vol.1

by Akatsuki Natsume

[Novel Updates](#)

Translation Group: [JayTranslation](#)

Epub: [Trollo WN/LN EPUB](#)

戦闘員派遣

COMBATANTS WILL BE
DISPATCHED!

「でかした！ よし、私は人を呼んでくる！
へへ……六号、この手柄は山分けだよな？ 頼むぞ！」

■SNOW'S VIEW

私が手柄の機会を与えたのだ。
山分けにしてやっただけ、ありがたく思え！

スノウ

----- SNOW -----
スラムのみなしごの身から
近衛騎士団の隊長にまで
登り詰めた努力家。
ゆえに出世欲が強く、
手柄の取り分にうるさい。

この巻のメインヒロイン

ロゼ

ROSE

カー〇イみたく
コピー能力を持つキメラ。
創造者であるおじいちゃんからの
遺言を大切にするあまり口調が……
正直かなり痛い。

「隊長は妻帯者？ 彼女なんかはいるのかしら？ ちなみに私は独身よ。
こんなにいい女なのに、なぜか不思議と彼氏もいないわ」

グリム

GRIMM

大司教だけどピッチ。

「私はロゼ。そう、戦闘用人工キメラのロゼ……。
あなた達に、この私を使いこなせる……」

キサラギ=アリス

KISARAGI ALICE
キサラギ社の技術の粋を尽くした
高性能アンドロイド。
過度に暴力を振るわれると内蔵されている
動力炉が暴走し自爆する。

ALICE'S VIEW

自爆は悪党のロマンだろうが、なにが悪い。

ROSE'S VIEW

でも、おじいちゃんが、おじいちゃんが……。

GRIMM'S VIEW

私だけ紹介ひどくない!?
偉大なるゼナリス様、このページの制作者に災いを!
魚の骨が喉に刺さったときの苦しみを味わうがいい!

「キサラギ社製美少女型高性能アンドロイド。
キサラギ=アリスちゃんだ。お前と同じ平社員だから、タメ口を利いてもいいぞ」

自己紹介

戦闘員六号的 正しい軍事行動①

「隊長、そのセリフはやめませんか？
軍事作戦のほずなのに物凄い悪事に加担している気になってきます……」

ヒヤツハア！ 逆らうヤツは皆殺しだあ！
命が惜しけりや荷物を置いて失せやがれ！

ROKUGOU'S VIEW

んな事言われても、戦闘員マニュアルにある、
敵への正式な降伏勧告だぞ？

よし、次は
手を後ろについて、
脚を開いて
腰を落として
みようか。

こら、その手をどけろ！
手は後ろに！



「うわあ……」

ハイネ

HEINE

魔王軍四天王幹部
炎のハイネの異名をもつ実力者。
おっぱいが大きい。
褐色亜人マニアが
狂喜乱舞しそうな体軀である。

HEINE'S VIEW

六号……！ この外道め！
貴様だけは絶対に許さない！！

戦闘員六号的 正しい軍事行動②



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COMBATANTS WILL BE DISPATCHED!

□絵・本文イラスト／カカオ・ランタン

□絵・本文デザイン／岩井美沙（バナナグローブスタジオ）

PROLOGUE



Prologue

"...Is it ok for me to ask you again where you are from?"

"It's Japan. Japan, Nippon, Nihon, call it whatever you like."

"I'm sorry, it's because Japan is a country I have never heard of..."

"Well that's probably because it's a small island in the far east."

"Oh I see... So on your resume... Can I ask about the place you previously worked at, **"The Secret Society of Kisaragi?"**"

"It's a Secret Society, so it's a secret."

"I-I see... Ah, Ahem, then... Under your specialties... just what is an Omni-Directional Rotating Bastard Sword?"

"It's my special move."

"...A special move?"

"Yeah, it's my special move. With this technique, many eiyuus* were buried into the ground."

TN: Eiyuu is Japanese for hero. Since this was said in English, I left it in Japanese for the translation. It'd be confusing if heroes existed there, but they didn't know what a hero was, despite calling them that.

"Just what are these eiyuus?"

"Enemies."

"Is that so... I apologize for just asking questions for a while. Then, is it alright to proceed with the assumption that you can fight?"

"Yeah, there's no problem with that."

"—Because I'm a combatant."

FIRST
CHAPTER



A SPY WILL BE
DISPATCHED



Chapter 1

Part 1

There is a corporation known as “Kisaragi.” A megacorporation that everyone present day on Earth knows of. I’m currently in a conference room at the headquarters of Kisaragi.

"—and that’s the current situation No. 6. Do you understand?"

"No. 6, do you understand?"

"Not one bit."

After hearing my immediate answer, the generals heaved a long sigh as they questioned my intelligence.

"...Then, I’ll explain one more time. Combatant No. 6. As a soldier of the Secret Society of Kisaragi, we want you to conduct some reconnaissance activities. Your mission is to investigate the ecology of local organisms. If there are natives, investigate their military strength. And you are to investigate whether there are resources or land that are worth our while to invade..."

"Ok..."

I have no problem understanding up to here.

That’s right, up to here, it’s nothing different from an ordinary mission.

"Another thing, the dispatch location is another planet and not Earth. Understand?"

"Understand?"

"As expected, I don’t understand at all."

After hearing my immediate reply again, the two generals gave baffled looks. With long and lovely black hair that comes down to her back, and beautiful enough to seemingly cause a chill is Glacial Astaroth. With wavy and burning red hair, and a busty body that’s generously exposed is Blazing Belial. These two female generals, while wearing lewd swimsuit-like outfits... They always act

cheerfully while calling themselves with such titles. Glacial Astaroth, who was previously explaining, gave another sigh.

"...No. 6, just what don't you understand? I'm not even using words that are hard to understand... I'm just ordering you to infiltrate as a spy."

Standing next to her, Blazing Belial was agreeing and nodding.

"I understand the mission's content. What I don't understand, is the unknown planet outside of Earth part. I can put up with your weird cosplays or pitiful self-titles... But a fully fledged adult telling me about planets outside Earth or different worlds whatnot... even if it's me, it gets tiring. "

"Yo-youu, don't you dare say our General uniforms are cosplays!"

"What do you mean pitiful, No. 6? Have you thought that way about us all this time?"

The two generals were overflowing with embarrassment.

"I mean, it's normal for you two to talk about strange things, but today it's much worse? Were you influenced by watching an isekai anime involving reincarnation?"

"Youuu, just because I let you talk! Alright, listen well Combatant No. 6! Right now, our Secret Society of Kisaragi is on the cusp of world conquest. You understand right?"

"Well yeah, I know."

With a bulging vein on her forehead, Astaroth patiently began to explain.

World Conquest.

That's right, that World Conquest.

The Corporation that I belong to... While always calling itself an evil organization, we commit any evil act for the sake of world conquest.

Even I, as soon as I entered the corporation, went through reconstruction surgery and was used as a combatant. With having world conquest as the goal being no longer secret, a megacorporation, evil organization, the Secret Society of Kisaragi.

Currently, there are no countries that can overthrow this large organization with military strength. Although there is some resistance economically, it's only a matter of time before it's resolved.

"Then, once world conquest is complete, what do you think will happen to you combatants?"

I tilted my head as I didn't understand the meaning of Astaroth's question.

"...? After world conquest is achieved, won't we become rulers that will live out the rest of our lives immersed in pleasure?"

"As if. There will be massive layoffs."

""Whaaaat!?"""

As Astaroth's reply took root, Belial and my voice overlapped.

"What do you mean by layoffs... Eh? Then, doesn't that mean we'll be laid off?"

"That's right."

A cold breeze blew through the conference room.

"...Oi oi oi! You shouldn't joke around. Till now you made me go through hell, sent me to all kinds of dangerous places... Now that matters are finished, you're throwing us out! You even made me go through reconstruction surgery, my body is full of scars! Take responsibility! Specifically, I'll be a great house-husband so let me live with you."

"Hey, I'm a general that's also a combatant. Will I be laid off as well?"

Even when Belial and I are all up in front of her...as worthy of her epithet 'Glacial', with a cool face...

"Well, calm down both of you... Ah, Ahhh No. 6, I'll explain step by step so stop tugging on my clothes! It's gonna fall off! Stop! The General uniform is already very revealing! It's dangerous. Dangerous! "

... Hah... Hah... As she breathed roughly, with a scared face and on the verge of tears, Astaroth hugged her body while distancing herself.

"Really, listen you two! First Belial. You're one of the top generals, you won't

be laid off. Even after global domination is achieved, we need to possess some level of military strength. — And, Combatant No. 6."

Unlike Belial, who was breathing a sigh of relief, I, who was a lowly combatant, became terrified.

As if piercing my inner self, Astaroth turned her gaze to me.

"Unlike Belial, you're just an ordinary combatant. Even so, you were a member of Kisaragi from its very beginning, you're close enough with the generals. Even now it's up to the point where I can call you one of the top generals."

"Then, can you raise my salary a bit? Although I was here since high school, the pay right now is basically the same from when I worked part-time jobs."

"However! If we show favor to you and neglect the other combatants, our organization will be in trouble!"

The talk about the pay raise was dismissed.

"Then what's going to happen? If you say layoffs will be determined by fairly drawing lots, even if it's me, I'll use my modified body to blow you away?"

"Uh...As if that would happen... So that's why we should go back to what I was previously saying!"

As if noticing my faint intentions, Astaroth started talking in a distance with an awkward posture.

"As I was saying, No. 6. If we manage to fully rule the Earth, it'll be alright if we just find new places to conquer. Even if this is the first time I heard about the layoffs, there were many talks from a while back. Such as if wars don't exist anymore, everyone's workload will likely decrease. After occupying the land, we'll use our power to reign, so there will be nowhere to spend money is what I'm saying."

Belial, who was beside Astaroth, brought up those words.

"Is that's why you brought up this world? From the beginning, if there was such technology, even if it's a world with only beauties with big boobs, I would quickly go there. But alas, it'll probably be after technology has developed

enough to be able to even go to Mars or Venus first."

Those two were looking at me as if I were a retarded kid. Those two had expressions that looked like they had something to say.

"...We'll leave that talk for later. Let's continue in Lillith's room. No. 6, follow me."

As she was saying that, with a serious expression different from the norm, Astaroth turned around and I tilted my head as I followed her back.



— The last of the three top generals, Black Lillith's laboratory.

There were many mysterious items lying around inside. I had no idea what they could be used for. Among them, the one that stood out was...

"No. 6. Do you know what this is?"

At the end of where Astaroth was pointing, there was a massive machine set up. A glass pod that could fit many people at once.

"What is this? It looks like a machine that can teleport things like in the movies."

As soon as I said that...

There was a voice coming from inside the lab's owner's room.

"That's exactly what it is No. 6! You're an idiot, but you have good intuition."

The one who called me an idiot, is a cute, young girl with black hair neatly cut short, dressed in white. Black Lillith. She was the one who performed the reconstruction surgery on me. She's a crazy in the head mad scientist.

"Exactly what I said... Eh? That's a teleportation machine? This piece of junk?"

"To call it a piece of junk... How rude. This is a proposition for mankind that can potentially solve any problem. It's one of my greatest masterpieces that I've ever made."

Astaroth furrowed her brow when seeing Lillith highly tensed, since she's normally a gloomy character.

"What are you doing Lillith, you're wearing something white again. I told you to wear the General uniform. The General uniform."

"I told you I don't want to. It's embarrassing. Also wearing something white makes me look like a scientist right? And I wanted to tell you since morning, both of you look like cosplayers from low budget pornos."

"Ah, I also thought that."

"Whaa-What did you say?"

As if shocked, Astaroth and Belial stopped moving.

Well, it doesn't matter what those two do.

"...Anyways, a teleportation machine... You've made something amazing again. I've often heard from within the organization that Lillith-sama is the foremost scientist in the world, but since you spent so much on useless research, I thought you were a huge squanderer. "

"Ah, as always you say things to your superior so bluntly."

As Lillith received a slight shock, I earnestly observed the pod that was behind her.

"So... how is this connected to my mission?".

At the sight of me tilting my head, Lillith's eyes brightened up as if saying that I asked a good question.

"Do you think aliens exist out there?"

"Well, isn't that a given? Although I can't say for sure."

It's just that within our secret society, there are members that look like ghosts. And in the world, there is a mysterious group known as heroes that exists. So with that said, nothing in this vast universe would surprise me.

"Currently in this universe, even within the observable universe there are many planets, similar to Earth, that are being discovered. With water, and the color green... a suitable distance from the sun, even the size of it is similar to the Earth. For you who's always working hard, that planet is your big reward."

Reward?

Then, Lillith glanced at me that was wearing an expression of confusion.

"You don't have any interest in extraterrestrial planets? In this vast universe, there's a countless number of stars around. Furthermore, there are numerous planets revolving around the vicinity of each star. In other words, there are countless worlds out there! An astronomical number. The act of counting it would be at the top of the stupidest things to do!"

Lillith's face became very red, possibly as a result of getting too excited. After

taking a breath, and spreading both her hands out, she went off on a tirade.

"It's literally an unknown world. There may only be uncivilized primitives, or perhaps the planet's civilization is far more advanced than that of Earth's. It's even possible that your favorite world of swords and magic exists. Do you not want to go to that kind of world!?"

"A world where I'll be loved for whatever I do, or a world with a different aesthetic sense where I'm seen as a super good-looking guy, maybe there's even a world where there is no other man other than myself. In other words, that means you're going to send me to one of those worlds, right? Then, let's begin right away! I'm ready whenever you are!"

Lillith looked at me, while I was murmuring to myself, with a disgusted look. She turned around and gestured towards the lab.

"Hmmm I see. I'm glad that you approve. Also you will not be the only one dispatched... Alice, come here."

After she was called, a blonde haired girl wearing a white one piece appeared. At first glance, she looks like a 6th grader? She was staggering while carrying around a huge backpack unfit for a small body.

"Who's this brat? For the record, I hate kids. "

"Are you referring to me? You're just an underling combatant, don't overstep your boundary."

...

"Hah? Did you just say that? You shitty brat! Even if you're a kid, I won't forgive you! I'm a combatant from an evil organization. Don't underestimate the biggest corporation known worldwide, Kisaragi!! "

"If you're violent with me, the power core built into me will blow. Everything nearby will be wiped out. If that's fine with you, then go ahead. And my official designation isn't brat, I'm a Kisaragi-Manufactured Beautiful Girl Type Android."
"

...An android... for real? I mean that deadpan voice, and her blank expression... After hearing those words, I started to think it was possible.

"It's a relief that you guys are hitting it off well. Then let me start the introductions. This child is Alice. She's made to be your supporter as a high-performance android. She's also one of my greatest masterpieces."

"Unlike the cheap lives of combatants such as yourself, an enormous amount of money was invested into developing me. So cherish me. And I heard you were an idiot, so leave the brain work to me."

"... I'm sorry, but I don't need a piece of junk that's foul mouthed and potentially dangerous..."

As I was talking, I stood in front of the pod and started my equipment check.

To the right side of my waist is my usual pistol.

Extra bullets were loaded inside my belt.

On the other side of my waist is my beloved battle knife that I bought with my bonus.

Truth be told, I'm a little uneasy about taking just these to another world.

"Looking at you, it seems you're already determined to go."

Astaroth said this with a warm smile, different from her usual cold face, after overcoming the shock of being treated as a cosplayer.

... That look... When I first met her after being hooked by the fraudulent poster for a part-time job interview... The reason I chose to work at the suspicious organization that is a so called secret society was because of that smile I liked.

That smile makes it possible for me to do this and that, paint my hands in evil, and make me willingly declare war against the whole world.

"Fine, I'll go. I'll go! In the end, it comes down to this right? Since I was selected out of all the combatants, I'm somewhat of a representative of Kisaragi!"

To the me that's proudly speaking, of course Astaroth will vigorously...

"Huh?... Oh, oh-right! That's right! Out of all the combatants, only you can accomplish this important mission!"

"Oi, how did you select the personnel? Belial? How did you choose who would go?"

Instead of asking Astaroth who wouldn't easily crack, I turned to Belial, who was still crouched in a corner muttering to herself. Since she didn't look like she could lie her way out, I asked Belial.

"It's not lewd... The General uniform is not lewd... huh? The selection process? Astaroth, for sure rolled a dice and..."

"I'm counting on you No. 6! Now, now... there's no time! Hurry up and go in!"

While quieting down Belial, Astaroth shoved me inside the pod.

If I safely return, I'll definitely force them to give me a general's salary even if it's the last thing I do.

"If you need any weapons or any other supplies, you can apply for it by sending a memo through this mini transmitter. If you send a memo through this, we'll be able to know your coordinates through the chips embedded in you or Alice."

As Lillith was explaining, she handed something like a wristwatch to Alice and me while grinning reassuringly.

I don't know where I'll be sent, but if I'm able to endlessly use Kisaragi Corporation's equipment, then nothing scares me.

After I entered the glass pod, the foul-mouthed piece of junk followed suit.

"Oi, you were called Alice right..? Didn't you say that when you're attacked, you power core will explode? Will this be ok for you? Please, don't just self-destruct..."

"Self-destruction is every villain's dream. Well, it'll be alright. Besides, it seems I was made to be your support. It's unheard of a support killing the one they support.. So I'll just do that when the time and place isn't determined."

I was just telling her not to self-destruct... Is this girl right in the head?

"Combatant No. 6."

Astaroth called out my name in a cold, blank expression.

But, I immediately sensed something wrong when looking at that uneasy expression.

"...Well, it's just that... With you, you were a member ever since you were still a student. I told you before, but I think of you as one of the top generals of this organization. This isn't a lie. "

Just what is this girl saying right before I'm about to go...

I entered this organization as a part-timer around the time I was a freshman in high school. After that point, in a short time span, we conquered most of the world. If we wanted to fight with the army, there were clashes with the perverted group of self-proclaimed heroes wearing full body tights. If only we had the technology of that group of perverts, it could have been applied to so many different things... I've also fought with transforming humanoid robots that could combine. Since those times were so dangerous and unreasonable, I told myself that I would quit many times, but...

"It was fun. Being together with everyone in this organization. Well I don't know what'll happen. I can't promise that I'll return safely, but I'm actually looking forward to this dispatch a little. Well, I'll do my best to return. And if I return, please raise my salary to that of a general's. "

"You idiot. When you say such things, you're supposed to promise that you'll safely return. Since the three of us will always be waiting for you to return. If you return, you can be the 4th top general. It wouldn't be so bad to call us the four heavenly kings."

During my time of reminiscing, Astartoth gave a firm smile as she said that.

...Anyways, I'm in my twenties now... At this age, calling myself one of the four heavenly kings is a little embarrassing...

"Mhm. I really wanted to go... Good for you No. 6~, since you can go on adventures in an unknown world. I should've fixed the dice to land on me."

"...The dice? What, Belial-sama was a candidate for this as well?"

Belial, with a "what are you saying" look, laughed at my question.

"Of course, isn't it for sure that it would be? On the dice: 1, 2 was Astaroth. 3,

4 was me. 5 was Lillith. 6 was you. Since Astaroth said that it could only be left to the most trustworthy personnel, these were the possible candidates. She was the one that said rolling the dice was best to ensure fairness... but when 6 landed, she started going off on how since it's dangerous, that she'd be the one to go."

"Alright! Since preparations are complete, Combatant No. 6! I will now give you your official mission!"

Astaroth, blushing furiously, shouted over Belial, who was about to reveal something important. What the heck, am I really being treated like a general? Am I important to them? ...Hang on, my nose is becoming stuffy.

I turned to Astaroth who, despite blushing red, somehow had a blank expression...

"...Astaroth-sama, before I go, can I have small a hug?"

"I'll give you your mission! You have two objectives. First, build a base in a safe area. Then set up the teleportation machine in that base. This will make it possible for round trips between that world and Earth. This part will mainly be done by Alice. "

Belial, who was grinning after seeing Astaroth completely ignoring what I just said,

"Oi No. 6! Not just a hug, ask for a kiss. Only in times like this will Astaroth not get angry~"

"If you do, I'll freeze you! Ah really, the explanation isn't progressing! ... Second, investigate the strength of the natives, resources, and terrain. This mission is on top of your combatant work. Earth right now is experiencing a global food crisis because of population growth, soil pollution caused by wars, diminishing habitable lands from rising sea levels, and so on... If your dispatch location is habitable by mankind, all of these problems can be solved at once."

...Ehhhh.

"Hold on, this is way beyond the organization's fate, it involves the fate of the world. This is a huge mission."

"That's a given of course. That's why failure will not be accepted. And if you do fail, just remember that you won't be able to return. As Lillith mentioned, if you want certain equipment, write it down in a memo and transmit it. With that said, as of now, we can only send things that can fit into this glass pod."

...Of course.

In other words, the organization is fully behind me, with unlimited use of its equipment. All of it... for this?

"Also send regular reports weekly... Send pictures that show you are alive and well."

As Astaroth was saying that she gave a small chuckle.

I was about to embrace this version of Astaroth but I was forcefully dragged into the pod.

"— Well then, are you ready?"

Lillith started doing final check-ups while standing in front of the pod that Alice and I were in.

Next to her, Astaroth was holding her hands together while lowering her head. Belial had a somewhat anxious gaze stuck right to the glass. It was as if she was trying to carve my image into her eyes. She kept staring at me.

"Send me off with a more cheery mood. I'm getting somewhat nervous now."

After hearing my words, Astaroth said,

"... Yes, you're right. You're already determined. If we worry further, we'll just be giving you anxiety. I'll pray for your safe return, Combatant No. 6."

As if saying a final farewell, Astaroth said that with a serious expression.

"What's with all this fuss. Honestly, I really don't think this will be a long-term trip? I have a good feeling that I'll find a good building fit for a base. Then the teleportation machine will be quickly set up. And before you know it, it'll be possible to go back and forth."

"But, it's the worrisome part that I'm concerned about. Isn't it possible that the teleportation process won't go smoothly?"

Belial said that with a dreary expression while I was talking in a relaxed tone.

"Don't worry, there's no way Lillith sama will fail. Isn't she's the world's greatest scientist?"

"" ""

Astaroth and Belial, without any words, looked at each other.

Next to them, Lillith was silently getting ready to teleport us.

"I have something I want to ask Lillith-sama, what's the success rate for teleportation? How many trials were there? And also even if you can teleport us to the confirmed planet, can you teleport us exactly on that planet's surface?"

"Up to now, the success rate for teleportation is 100%. I exercise my right to remain silent on the number of trials. And again, I use my right to remain silent on whether I can precisely send you."

"I'm sorry. In the end, it looks like I won't take this mission."

As I was trying to get out after saying that, Alice held my arm and refused to let go.

"Oi, don't get in my way you piece of junk. Wait a second, first let me out of here."

"After coming this far, what are you afraid of? It's common sense to always have a backup you peon."

.....This girl... She really is a piece of junk!

"You idiot. As a human being, I can't save and load like you! If you don't want to be in a sudden accident in this world, then don't ever call me an underling!"

"Ah, ahhhh, don't pull on my cheeks. My artificial skin is getting squishy. Fine then, I'll stop calling you an underling if you start calling me Alice."

"Well. Looks like any further tinkering won't improve anything. Shall we start the teleportation process?"

While I was in the middle of pulling on Alice's cheeks, Lillith made a dangerous remark.

At that moment, the pod that Alice and I were trapped in started spewing

smoke.

"Whaa-? Lillith-sama, smoke suddenly...! A lot of smoke is suddenly coming out!!"

"That's to sterilize all of the bacteria you're carrying so that it doesn't follow you to the destination. And one more thing. If you contract any unknown illness over there, you won't be able to return here, so be careful."

After hearing those uneasy words, I was just about to break out of the pod but Alice kept stopping me.

"...Combatant No. 6! With your modified body and our developed combat suit, you'll be able to adapt to any environment. I'll wish for your safe return!"

"Since it's you, I'll trust that you will return for sure! Don't forget my souvenir!"

"Hey wait a second! Stop! Stop! Oi, shouldn't you run a few more trials or whatnot?! Huh? Oooiiiiii!!"

After Astaroth and Belial's words, Lillith started talking to me while I desperately cried out,

"Listen well No. 6. It hasn't failed even once so the success rate is at 100%. But what if I kept running trials and an accident occurs? That's right, the 100% success rate will be no more. In other words, if I keep running more trials, the success rate will drop. That means the odds of you safely crossing over will drop as well. "

...I thought about Lillith's words.

"There's no way that's the case! There's something off about the way you calculate the odds! You're definitely not a genius scientist! They say that there's a razor thin line between an idiot and a genius, you're definitely an idiot!!"

"How... How rude! Your manners go straight out the window when your blood rushes to your head. The whole world desires my brains, yet you're probably the only who says such things. Then off you go Combatant No. 6! I'll be waiting for the good news~!"

As Lillith was talking, she activated the teleportation machine—!

"Dammmmmmnnnnn it! If I return, you'll be sorry!!!!!!!"

Part 2

As soon as I got teleported, a cold strong wind hit my face.

As I slowly opened my eyes, there was –

"Idiot! That girl's definitely an idiot! A huge idiot! Wahhhhhhhh! I don't want to die, I don't want to die! I don't want to die!"

"Don't just cry, and calm down a little. I've estimated the distance to the surface to be about 30,000 meters. We don't have much time left until we crash."

The place that I was teleported to was up in the air where the surface looked faint.

"Does it look like I can calm down in this situation?! Alice, you're a high-performance model right!? You actually have something like flight mode right!? Right!?"

"The only thing I have is a built-in self-destruct function."

"You piece of juuuuuunk!!"

The sound of the wind from falling whirled around my ears. Alice, who was also in the middle of falling at a high velocity, handed me her backpack that she was carrying.

"Hey, wear this. The very intelligent Lillith-sama and I expected something like this might happen. If you set the teleportation coordinates near the ground, then even if there's a slight calculation error we won't come crashing down to the surface with this."

From a closer look at the backpack, I realized it was a Kisaragi parachute.

This was a special production for descent operations for those wearing heavy-ass battle suits.

As soon as she said that, Alice started grabbing on for dear life.

"You don't have your own!?"

"Well there's no budget. You have to save up when you can. I leave it to you to deploy the parachute, so you better not mess up. If I crash into the surface, the surrounding area will be wiped out."

Just taking her with me is like a punishment game in itself!

With a parachute on my back, I had some peace of mind. Once again, I looked down at the surface.

"Oi Alice, look over there. There's something like a town."

"However there's quite a lot of undeveloped land. Even if there's intelligent life around here, it seems like their population is quite small."

Quite a bit away from our expected landing point, we saw something like a fortified city.

There was a huge castle right in the middle. And there were huge, towering walls enveloping all of the farmland surrounding the city.

Outside of the fortified city, a maroon, barren wilderness was spread far. It spread as far as towards an endless forest that seemed to be able to shroud even the whole world.

In our long time of descent, I checked the surrounding terrain. After landing safely, I gave a sigh of relief.

"...Alright. Alice, send our coordinates to our stupid superiors right away. A safe base is a pipe dream right now. After receiving the parts for the teleportation machine, we'll assemble them here. Then we'll immediately return. I'm going to grope that twerp's tits until she cries."

"It's impossible to assemble the parts in places like this because it's a super precise machine. It's not possible unless it's in a clean room without a speck of dust. In addition, since we used that device, it'll take about a month for the space we used for teleportation to stabilize. If you want to return, you'd better first secure a base of operation."

...Come again?

"Again! I was fooled again! I'll never forgive them ever again!! When they asked me if I'd be willing to undergo reconstruction surgery... They said that if I

work hard with an enhanced body, my career would accelerate! And that I would make a ton more money and that I would become the most popular guy around!! Those words hooked me in! How much do you think I'm earning right now!?"

"I may not know your situation, but you don't have to be so pessimistic. Within this vast planet, we've pinpointed and discovered a town with intelligent life. This is a very good sign. Well first, let's go to that place we discovered while we were falling."

As Alice said that, she started walking hastily towards the fortified city.

We landed in the very middle of the open wilderness.

No matter how much I curse my situation here, the situation will not improve. But, I wonder how long it'll take to get all the way there...

"Oi. I forgot because I was a little out of it before, but I'm going to introduce myself again. I'm the oldest of the elite combatants that survived every battlefield I've been in so far. I'm the one and only Combatant No. 6."

As I was following Alice's back, I said my name once again.

"I'm a Kisaragi-Manufactured Beautiful Girl-Type, High-Performance Android. Kisaragi Alice. I'm pretty much the same as you on the corporate ladder, so feel free to address me casually."

"Since I'm the senpai, that was my line. Well whatever. More importantly, what can you do? I can't do anything but fight. Ah! Since I mentioned fighting... weapons! Lillith-sama told us that if we needed anything, we should use this. If the teleportation machine is a no go, then at least let's get a mobile buggy, even if it's a small one."

Alice, who was walking side-by-side with me, suddenly came to a stop.

"I'll explain on that note. Hey No. 6, how many atrocity points do you have?"

—Atrocity points

It was one of the reasons that Kisaragi could be established as an evil organization.

In each individual's personal, embedded chip, points would be levied for each

atrocities committed.

I didn't think it had to go that far and that it'd be fine even if I didn't do anything evil... but the generals seemed to value the point of being evil over anything else.

If you collect these points by committing atrocities, there is a system for exchanging them for equipment or other rewards.

If you continually commit atrocities, you'll be recognized as an exemplary member of the evil organization. Also if you spend your saved-up points on better equipment, then come war time, you'll be able to stand out even more.

In that case, your value will definitely go up and you'll slowly climb the ranks.

Since I don't really dirty my hands with petty atrocities, I'm often ignored by the other guys in the organization.

The top generals told all of us Kisaragi members to not be mere brutes (human trash) or common crooks, but strive to become the charisma of evil or something like that...

I really don't get what those girls are saying at all...

"My current amount of points is about 300."

"...I doubt we can invade that fortified city with just the two of us. Well nothing can be done about that... Let's save our points by continuing on foot, then infiltrate the city."

Talking about invading in this situation... Her words are quite scary.

"...Hey wait a second. Are you saying atrocity points are needed to send stuff here? Just how much of a sweatshop is our corporation!? This is a huge project!! It's a given that we should be able to spend more money!!"

"Besides here, there are as many potential planets as there are stars. You might be the first to explore another planet, but eventually, there will be many more planets to be explored. There's just no budget to spend lavishly for each planet. And another thing, the Earth's conquest isn't even over yet."

...Why does this feel like an RPG game where I'm told to kill the Demon King while only being given a meager allowance.

"Even so... Since I only have the ability to fight, I can't even refuse this mission... Damn it all, just because they used layoffs as an excuse... An evil organization indeed!"

"If you don't want to be laid off, then work hard. If people can live here... Whether it's exploration work or fighting off unknown creatures, your work will be easy. At least here, the atmospheric composition is suitable for you to breathe and move around. Just those conditions alone make this very favorable."

Alice was tapping the back of my neck as she was saying that...

"If that's the case, then even more so, they should stop being so petty with atrocity points and send me the best equipment!! If they do that, then no matter who my enemy is, this No. 6-sama will... Ow! Hey, just what did you just inject me with!?"

"I injected nanomachines to raise your immune system so that you don't catch any unknown diseases. Well, it'd be great if the intelligent life, residing in that fortified city, is easy to handle. Since they chose a planet most similar to Earth, there's a high likelihood that a civilization of homo sapiens, such as yourself, is developing here. I don't see any high-rising buildings. If they're an underdeveloped civilization, then this mission will be a breeze."

Just like an android, Alice's expression didn't change at all as she was saying such scary words.

Part 3

Afterwards, just how much did we walk through this vast wilderness...

Slowly, the fortified city could be clearly seen with the naked eye. As we came this far, we—

"Liar! You said it yourself that this is a planet similar to Earth! There's no such thing on Earth, you idiot!"

"Now's not the time! Draw your gun! You better not miss by saying their numbers are too large!"

We were surrounded by black, alien-like, and grotesquely shaped four-legged animals. As I was pulling out my handgun from my waist, I shouted at Alice who was hiding behind my back.

"Oi, you help out too! Why is a robot using a human as a shield!?"

While I was taking care of any four-legged beast threatening to approach...

"I told you that I'm a high-performance android. Since it's high performance that pursues reality, my fighting ability is the same as an ordinary girl."

"You useless piece of junk. Saying that you're high-performance is definitely a lie right!? From now on, you better start using honorifics when speaking to me!"

As I was shouting at Alice, one of them ran at me.

I thought it was going to rip me apart. But its back, where there should be nothing, suddenly opened wide...!

"I'm... I'm gonna be eaten!"

With all my might, I resisted the huge jaw that was originally closed.

"Alice! Aliiiiiceeeeeee!... I'm not enough! Its jaw strength is on par with my own strength. Oi, do something! My hands are getting tired!"

My strength is increased by a modified body and the combat suit. Just what are creatures of this world eating!?

"Since I'm a piece of junk, I can't think of any countermeasures. I'm sorry that I'm a useless girl, Combatant No. 6."

"Please, please help me! I'll take back my words-!"

While I was saying that, a second, then a third beast approached.

While I was preventing the one in front me from closing its jaws, I kicked the others away.

"Then, use your atrocity points and give me a shotgun as a present. If you do, then I'll do something."

"I'll give it to you, so hurry up and take care of them!"

As soon as Alice sent the memo, the surrounding beasts simultaneously saw an opportunity to attack. It was then...

"*****!"

It sounded like a foreign language. It came far away from the direction of the fortress city.

As I looked in that direction, I saw the sight of a group on horses coming this way.

No, on a closer look, they were creatures that looked like horses with horns on their heads. The armor-clad group was riding imaginary creatures commonly known as unicorns. It seemed like they were shouting something while riding towards this direction.

"It's arrived, No. 6! I'll help you, so you better start using honorifics when speaking to me from now on!"

I turned around after I heard her, and Alice was holding a shotgun.

Alice came out from behind my back. She directed the barrel of the gun at the beast in front of me and fired.

BANG! The beast flew and collapsed. It rolled around a bit while shrieking feebly.

Since I was finally free, I picked up my pistol from the ground and fired it at the beast near me.

The beasts were shrinking in shock from the sound of the shotgun. It didn't take long for us to get the rest. –

"*****!?"

The head of the group riding unicorns was a woman, so I assumed she was the leader. She looked like she was asking for information just as we finished the battle.

Since she was wearing armor, I couldn't properly rate her. But from her face alone, she was exactly my type, a strong-willed beauty.

The woman with light sky-blue hair got down from her horse and pulled out her sword towards me.

"***** now! What did you *****!? ***** come from?!"

Although I had no clue what she was saying, I understood that I was being questioned.

"Oi Alice... What should I do? She's so animated..."

"Well just wait a bit. Let's listen to what she to say a little more, then think of what to do."

Even if we listen to her more, we don't know her language...

"That's *** where ***** from? **** no *****"

Huh?

"Also, you're not carrying something like ***. Answer me! Just who are you guys!?"

...

"Hey Alice. I think I might've awakened some mysterious power since arriving on this planet. I don't know why, but I'm starting to understand what she's saying. The already powerful me has an awakening. Nothing surprises myself... "

"I don't really get what you're saying but it's probably because I'm uploading a rough language data to the chip embedded into you during reconstruction surgery."

...

"Eh, wait? It's possible to do that with the chip inside me from reconstruction surgery? I didn't hear anything about that. It gives me the creeps a little."

"Now's not the time for trivial things. Leave this to me."

— As Alice ignored my words...

"Knight-sama, allow me to explain so please calm down."

Ignoring my surprise, she pretended to be an innocent girl while explaining the situation fluently in this world's language.

— — Back in our country, I was, in a way, a leader of a unit that worked endlessly everyday to protect the people.

However one day in battle, my heart and mind broke down from a terrible accident. Currently, Alice is my acting guardian. I'm following her to heal my heart and mind, a journey to find myself again. Then as soon we emerged from the forest close to the fortified city, we were attacked by those beasts and lost all our possessions. Also, my tone is rough, manners are lacking, and I have no common sense. Sometimes I do funny things... but because of my head injury, please overlook it with an open heart.

The woman who was listening to Alice's ridiculous story...

"I thought you were thieves or hunters, but travelers... I apologize for questioning you forcefully, but we also had a reason. A villager reported that he saw something fall from the sky within this area. So that's why we came out to investigate the situation..."

I turned around from that woman's sympathetic look. Wordlessly, I pulled on Alice.

"...Just what was that bullshit? Why am I being treated as slightly insane? Why did you suddenly establish some weird setting? Just what's your deal? Do you have something against me? Do you really want me to destroy you?"

"Everything was determined based on the various things I've heard from Lillith-sama. Listen well No. 6. You're an idiot who'll be found out sooner or later. However with this setting, you'll be able to ask about anything, even things that should be common sense that everyone here should know. Even if

you do the dumbest things, they won't be suspicious of you. Instead, they'd look at you sympathetically as they would at a pathetic person and that would be that."

Alice explained this all at once with a deadpan expression.

"As for me... Since it's impossible to say that we're siblings because of your black hair... I, a beautiful young girl, was almost kidnapped by a passing lolicon. Then you showed up and helped out. As you were fighting off that lolicon, let's say your originally deficient brain, suddenly experienced a serious error. So then after feeling tremendous guilt since you turned out this way helping me, the admirable and beautiful, young girl decided to travel with you... How's that?"

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN HOW'S THAT!? Just how skilled is this lolicon!? And just like last time, in the middle of your story, you occasionally fuck me up. Stop that! Also why am I the guy with a screw loose in his head, while you alone, are an admirable, beautiful girl!?"

Though that's what I said... Although it's frustrating, I can't think up a better setting than what she's proposed.

And she does have a point.

I'm not saying that she has a point about my brain, but if my memory is known to be lost, then it'll be useful when things go bad.

Then, while suspiciously looking at us when we were whispering to each other,

"...Well, I understand your situation. Normally I wouldn't believe you if you said that you passed through the Great Evil Forest. But after seeing this, I'll believe you. Our kingdom will welcome you... However, that's only if you decide to stay after hearing about our kingdom's situation."

After the armored woman spoke, she pointed at the corpse of the beast... For some reason, it looked like she had an anxious smile.

Part 4

On the way to the city, we were listening to the armored woman's explanation.

"It all happened one day. The neighboring nation of demons suddenly notified us of a declaration of war against our Grace Kingdom."

The other knights were off to investigate the report of something falling from the sky.

That "something" was definitely us.

Since the parachute was heavy, we left it at our landing point... But even if they find it, there's no way they'd be able to connect it to us.

"Though it's all of a sudden, but what's their goal for the declaration of war? Resources? Or maybe food?"

At my question, the armored girl shook her head.

"Their goal is land. You said you guys were from another nation, but in this area, there's very limited land that's habitable for humans. Their land is continually undergoing desertification because of a colossal beast called the Sand King residing there. But even so, it's not like they can colonize the Great Evil Forest right now...Therefore, that's why they probably have their eyes set on our kingdom."

The Sand King or whatnot, Great Evil Forest, etc... I don't know why, but those disturbing words are making me feel unpleasant. Will it even be profitable invading this planet after calculating all the risks?

At least, these guys will have their hands more than full...

"After taking our lands and enslaving us, it's likely that their goal is to eventually colonize the Great Evil Forest. But our kingdom has a legend passed down from the ages"

"Legend..."

Why won't my heart stop beating furiously?

"That's right, a legend. When mankind is threatened by the Demon King, a crest will appear on the chosen one's hand and he'll obtain incredible power. After endless hardships, he will eventually overthrow the Demon King... So it goes..."

I took off my combat gloves, and revealed the back of my hands.

"Am I, the chosen one...?"

"No matter how you look at it, that's just a bug bite."

Alice's small voice interrupted me, but my hopeful gaze still turned to the armored woman on top of a unicorn...

"Uh... Even if you stare at me with those eyes, the crest has already appeared on the Prince's hand..."

Ehh...

After seeing my deflated look, the armored woman quickly changed the subject.

"Come to think of it, we haven't introduced ourselves! My name is Snow. I am this Kingdom's commander of the royal guards. What about you guys?"

"Combatant No. 6."

"I'm a beautiful girl type, high performance android named Kisaragi Alice."

...

"Calling yourself a beautiful girl type or high performance is a little too much..."

"In that case, why'd you say Combatant No. 6? What happened to your real name?"

After hearing our self introductions, Snow, with an interesting face, tilted her head.

"Coombaatant no...? And you're Kisaragi Alice...? More importantly, just what is an android?"

I guess our names are hard to pronounce by the people of this world. Snow was repeating our names out loud.

"You can just call me No. 6."

"I'll be grateful if you can just call me Alice."

"Is that so? Then I shall. However, do you understand this kingdom's situation now? If you guys stay in our kingdom, you will all be welcomed... Also if you don't have any money for your travel, I can introduce you to some work. This must be fate. Won't you just hear me out?"

As Snow said that... I couldn't tell if she was just laughing by herself, but it looked like she had an ulterior motive behind her suspicious smile.

Then suddenly, Alice turned to me and spoke in Japanese.

[Hey No. 6, this is a good opportunity. Ask her to introduce us to some work. A good workplace environment to gauge the combat ability of this planet's people. Even better, if we can live in the castle, it'll be easier to sabotage it from the inside.]

[You really are a heartless android. But, yeah... We do need a home base until we finish our investigation. If we go with the flow, we won't need to show identification when entering.]

Snow tilted her head with a strange expression while watching us talk.

"I apologize. Since this person is an idiot, I talked in our native language to better explain the situation. Please tell us about any combat-related work."

"Oi, can you stop belittling me every chance you get? ... Well, whatever... As Alice just said, I'll take any combat-related work. I look forward to working with you."

After hearing those words, Snow...

"Ah, that's what I should be saying. I look forward to working with you as well. I have a lot of hope for you two! Hehe.....hehehehehe..."

No matter how you looked at it, her smile was definitely suspicious...

—

"— I am Snow, the exclusive knight for Princess Tirris, and the commander of the royal guards! I found some travelers and escorted them here. Open the

gate!"

As soon as Snow raised her voice, the soldiers opened the gate and saluted.

"Thank you for your hard work! But travelers... Just where did you... Anyways you must be exhausted, please take a rest back at the castle!"

As soon as the gate opened, there was a sight that betrayed our expectations.

Behind Snow riding her horse, Alice was in a good mood polishing her shotgun with a cloth. It looked like she was embracing something precious. However, even she stopped moving after seeing that object.

On the streets, there were various buildings built from bricks here and there.

Since I didn't see any utility poles, it seems like they don't have electricity yet.

From seeing all the pedestrians coming and going, it seems like there's a lot of diversity here judging from the various hair colors and skin tones.

Yeah, so far... I understand that their civilization is still at the level of wearing armors and relying on horses for transportation.

However...

"Hey Snow, just what is that? That looks like a tank to me..."

That's right... Right after going through the gate, there was a heap of rusty red scrap metal that looked like it was once a tank.

"Hmm? Do you know what this relic is? This is an ancient weapon that defended this kingdom from the threat of a giant demon. In a time where there was no wall, it was said to have been used right here against the giant demon until the very end. Although preservation magic has been cast on it to save this technology... As you can see, most of it's decayed."

If this is considered an ancient weapon... That means in the past, there existed a civilization that was on a similar level to that of the Earth's. It started out with words describing a fantasy such as the legend of the Demon king, then it suddenly became a sci-fi story. This is a warning sign... Wait... Wait a second!

"Magic? Just now you said preservation magic right!?"

"What...What's wrong? Your breathing's a lot faster now. For your

information, I can't use magic... Don't, don't look at me so blatantly disappointed! There's only a limited amount of people with magical talent. Nothing can be done about it!!"

So there's magic in this world...

That's it. She said the Demon King did this or that... It's not strange at all to have one or two magics.

It's not strange...

I outstretched my palm towards the sky and shouted vigorously.

"Explosioooooooooooooooooon!"

.....

"...You did mention he'll say some weird things once in a while, is this one of them?"

"Yes. These eccentric outbursts may be troubling sometimes, but if possible, I hope you can just leave him be."

Looking at my frozen posture with serious expressions, Snow and Alice were whispering to each other.

Part 5

"— Snow, Welcome back. Thank you for your hard work on your mission... And, who are these guests?"

After being guided inside a large room at the top floor of the castle, we were now face to face with a girl. This blonde-haired girl had a very adult-like aura.

"Yes. We encountered these two during our mission. By their own words, they are foreigners who've crossed the Great Evil Forest, although I can't verify that. At the location I found them, there were many corpses of deadly heggs lying around. At the very least, I believe their skills are for real."

She gasped while listening to Snow's report...Then, softly murmured to herself while having a surprised expression.

"Both of you lower your heads! This person will be your employer. The princess of this kingdom. Crystseras Tirris Grace-sama."

"That's one long name."

"You insolent fool!"

Snow cut off my honest opinion, while the girl in front me softly laughed.

"You're quite a straightforward person. Indeed, you don't seem like a citizen of this kingdom. Because if you knew who I was, you wouldn't have reacted that way."

While the girl laughed joyfully, she said some meaningful words.

"Will it be better to address you as Grace-sama? Or perhaps, will Crystseras-sama be better?"

"Please call me Tirris. Also, it's fine to be informal. It's fine to even omit the "sama". I hope you will treat me as a friend."

"Ti...Tirris-sama... That's going way too far..."

Tirris ignored whatever Snow wanted to say.

Although even the top generals of our organization gave me this much liberty

to talk in this kind of tone, this girl seems to actually be an open-minded person.

Then, Snow started whispering in Tirris's ears. After hearing it, Tirris nodded her head.

"Is it Combatant No. 6-sama, and Alice-sama? No. 6-sama, which nation did you lead a unit in?"

"I did lead in the past. With many combatants under me, we fought fiercely against the whole world as our opponent."

Upon hearing those words, Snow turned to me with a suspicious gaze while Tirris giggled and laughed.

First of all.. It's the truth.

"Currently, because of our kingdom's ongoing fight with the demons, we are lacking capable commanders. No. 6-sama, if you're that strong, can you lend our kingdom some of your strength?"

After she said that, as if begging, she held her hands together, with eyes that looked like they were about to cry... Then she looked up towards me.

"If it's the princess's request, I can't refuse! It's not like I'm doing this because you're a beautiful girl!?"

"Hey No. 6, stop with the bad theatrics. It's making the conversation more difficult."

After hearing my reply, Tirris started laughing in a relieved state. --

"For goodness' sake. Even if you're a foreigner, can you not tell the difference between words that you can and cannot say out loud! It's only because Tirris-sama is so kind that she can forgive your rudeness. If you said that to any other nobles, you won't be able to complain even if your head comes off! How will you take responsibility if my evaluation drops!?"

After finishing up our interview with the employer, we were going to the next place.

Though we already received Tirris's permission, it seems like she still wanted me to go through the formal interview process.

It seems like even if it's another planet, public affairs are still rather inflexible.

"Please don't be so angry Snow-sama. No. 6 is definitely an idiot lacking proper etiquette. But since he's a pro when it comes to fighting, he'll definitely play an important role going forward. If that happens, won't Snow-sama receive credit for that as well since you were the one who scouted us?"

"...Wah...!?"

Snow, who was complaining in front of us, was baffled by Alice's point.

"Ah, is that what it was!? That's right, it's a state of war right now. You need all the strong people you can get. You thought you could use us after you saw us take care of those beasts! By saying you'll introduce us to work, you wanted to take all the credit... But above all else, you wanted my strength and sexy body!"

"I don't want it that desperately! And I don't need your body! Honestly, I love merit, money, and famous swords over all else!"

Snow was overdoing it a little by shouting such a vain speech so sincerely.

"Hey No. 6. I feel like you and I are cut from the same cloth. You know, normally we don't employ foreigners? I am a high-ranking authority. If there's anybody giving you a hard time because you're a newcomer, I'll crush him by the authority of the Commander of the Royal Guards. So it's not like we disagree on anything right? Down the road, I'll try to make things easier for you...So I'm counting on you!!

While I felt a little terrified of being treated as a comrade by this black-hearted woman, Alice suddenly raised her voice,

"...Hmmm? Snow-sama, what exactly is that?"

We were being guided inside the castle and just passing through the courtyard.

Just like the tank from before, we saw something that didn't quite fit in here.

From the castle's courtyard, we saw a 3 meter wide cube-shaped machine.

Alice was thoroughly observing it and,

"Unlike the tank from before, this thing is in pretty good condition. The power source utilizes solar power. Just what is this used for?"

Snow exhaled loudly while facing us after we inadvertently stopped walking.

"This is also one of our kingdom's artifacts. This is a legendary relic that can summon rainfall. Whenever there was a season that needed plenty of rainfall, there was a ceremony to plead for rain that involved the kingdom's royal family dedicating words of prayer to the relic. As you can see, now it doesn't work. There's a powerful preservation magic casted on it, but it'll eventually decay as well..."

As if she saw the future of the kingdom tied to this unmoving machine, Snow had a lonely expression...

"If it's in this state, I might be able to fix it. May I open it up?"

"Re-really!? Even if something goes wrong, I'll take full responsibility! Will you fix it if you can!? "

As if responding to the cheered-up Snow, Alice took out a tool from who knows where and immediately started to repair it.

"Why are you carrying something like that?"

"Because I do my body's maintenance by myself. Even someone like you takes care of his health."

Although Alice gave a perfectly logical response to my question... To be able to fix herself up... She's kind of convenient to have around.

In the meantime, Snow couldn't stand still while watching Alice repair it from the side.

"How is it? Think you can fix it?"

"Yes, it looks like it'll work out. It's only the wires that deteriorated. It should be fine if you restart it after replacing the wires."

Upon hearing that, Snow let out a gleeful shriek and with an ecstatic face,

"Great job! Ok, I'll call over some people! Hehe... Hehehehehehe... Hey Alice, No. 6. We're sharing this accomplishment 50-50 right? I'm counting on you!"

As she was talking, she kept weirdly laughing and went somewhere.

"... Splitting it 50-50... She didn't even do anything."

"That includes you if you say that... Ok. With this, we can start it up."

As soon as Alice pressed what looked like the activation switch, a mechanical sound came out.

Password?

This must be what Snow mentioned before about royalty giving some words of prayer.

Once again, it narrated this direction.

"Dick Festival"

"What do you think you're doing?"

Alice, with the tool still in her hand, stopped moving as if she thought I just committed something unthinkable.

Even though she's an android, Alice was dumbstruck. I went 'tsk tsk' and waved my finger at Alice.

"Alright Alice, listen carefully. What did Snow mention before? That's right. Every year... When it's the season that needs rainfall, royalty will pray to this thing. Royalty, in this case, refers to Tirris. That means that Tirris will have to chant this in front of everyone. What I'm getting down to is that when everyone sees Tirris's embarrassed face each time this happens, I can earn a lot of atrocity points from this."

"In your own words, listen to me carefully. If it can be done by royalty, then that means anyone from the royal bloodline, and not just Tirris, can use this. Tirris is a princess. In other words, this means that there's a king. Every year now... A fully grown man, with many decades under his belt, will chant this idiotic password, that only a grade-schooler would've thought of in front of all his people."

.....

"What should I do? I feel like I just messed up big time..."

"What's done is done. Hey, No. 6. Request for a plastic explosive to be sent. We'll blow this machine up to destroy the evidence. Then we'll tell Snow this... I tried to repair it, but it was impossible... That I thought I fixed it, but it suddenly exploded~ "

This kid... She really is as high performance as she says.

"Nice! Let's go with that!"

As soon as I shouted that out, I heard a voice from behind me.

"Just what exactly is "nice?""

Looking behind towards the familiar voice...

There stood Tirris grinning while clenching the fan in her hand, as well as Snow trembling while sweating up a storm.

Through the chip embedded in me, only I was able to hear the familiar sound.

Part 6

"Stop struggling! You're in front of his Majesty so be still!"

"What is this—, You were the one that said you'd take full responsibility if something like this happened—! This is a little harsh. If you were going to act this way, you shouldn't have let us fix it—!"

This looked like the throne room.

Snow and another soldier were dragging us towards the king of the kingdom while we were all tied up.

"Sh-Shut up! I only told you to repair it! Who told you to do something like that!?"

Snow's face was full of anxiety as she tried to shut me up.

We were on our knees on the carpet with our arms tied up. In front of us was a gentle-looking man looking curiously at us. He asked,

"... And he is?"

"Yes, it seems like Snow-dono rated his skills highly and brought him in to be a commander. Then he said they could fix the artifact in the courtyard, and it seems like they have actually repaired it."

After listening to the explanation of the secretary-like woman, the man raised his voice in admiration.

This person surely must be the king.

Because...

"Oi Alice... This is the first time I've seen such a kingly King. Even Santa would be jealous of that huge beard. Do you think I'll get in trouble if I ask if I can pull on it?"

"Look No. 6, That man is the highest-ranking authority in the Kingdom. Tone down your voice when you're talking about your impression of him."

Without paying any attention to what we were doing, the secretary continued

her explanation.

"However, when they were repairing it... It seems they've changed the words of prayer to something vulgar."

"Something vulgar? And what is it?"

The secretary was a cool-beauty type.

Just what could it be... All the women I met on this planet are on quite a high level.

Now that I think about it, even the female guards that were with Snow...

"It's... Di... Festival..."

"Is that so? I apologize for making you say those words."

Ah, I just discovered something amazing!

All the women in that group of knights were riding unicorns...

"I find it difficult to understand why someone would do something so thoughtless. You, was there anything inaccurate from the secretary's explanation?"

I think I heard of some legend saying that unicorns only let virgin maidens ride them.

In other words, that means...!

"Hey you bastard! Answer his majesty's question!"

Snow suddenly shouted while putting her face right in front of me.

"Ugh! Too close! What, what do you think you're doing trying to kiss someone thinking of important matters...!?"

"You... Just what are you saying in this sacred throne room?"

The King coughed quickly and asked the question again.

"Ahem. Is it true that you changed the words of prayer to something vulgar?"

I remembered the situation I was in.

"It's the truth, but this woman said she'd take all of the responsibility."

"You bastard! That's not the case your majesty, I only told them to fix it...!"

As soon as I shifted the responsibility, the king had an awkward expression while saying,

"I thank you for repairing the artifact. For that, I'll overlook your sins, and even give you a reward. Take it and go to another-"

"Father, please wait."

The king's speech was suddenly interrupted by those words.

Tirris appeared before the throne room wearing a gentle smile.

"I personally want to employ these two. They have the strength to take down many deadly heggs as well as the knowledge to repair artifacts. It'll be such a waste for them to be exiled over something like this."

"Hmm. Is that so? Well if Tirris says so, then it must be true."

Seeing the king nod in agreement because of those words, Alice started to whisper to me in Japanese.

[No. 6, it seems like the princess is the one who really holds the ultimate authority in this kingdom. This King just looks like a pushover father.]

[So, Tirris is the one I should kiss up to... You know my specialty is kissing up to my superiors right? Leave it to me.]

[You...]

Then Snow, who was listening to Tirris's words, pointed at me.

"Tirris-sama, you have to exile this man! He degraded the precious artifact... There's no telling if this man is a spy from another nation sent to cause the ruin of our kingdom! Please reconsider!"

"Eh? It's funny how you say we're spies when you were the one who brought us here. If that's the case, you're a traitor for bringing spies into the kingdom!"

Snow's eyebrows furrowed furiously...

"You bastard! You're saying that I'm a traitor!? To me, whose loyalty towards Tirris-sama is above all others'!?"

"You're really angry right? Did you know? People are angriest when they hear the bitter truth!?"

From my taunt, Snow drew her sword while having bloodthirsty eyes.

"Someone like you... With my sword. You will become rust on my flaming sword, Flame Zapper!"

"Even if your manner of speech is a little lacking, to cut down someone who's tied up... Are you really a knight!? It was just determined that I am to be employed! Is it really ok to just selfishly cut me down? Among other things, aren't you forgetting something you have to do!?"

At my words, Snow's face blushed red. When she was about to cut me down, she suddenly stopped.

"... Something I have to do...?"

Alice started speaking next to the panicking Snow.

"You clearly told No. 6 and me that you would take full responsibility. Although our actions have been overlooked, it's yet to be told how you will take responsibility for this."

As she was listening to Alice's words...

Snow started trembling while her eyes, as if seeking help, turned to Tirris.

The ruler of this kingdom from behind the shadows was wearing what looked to be a friendly smile, while — —



— — Just as I came out of the interview room, Alice started talking to me in Japanese.

[Hey, how was the interview? Though it's called an "interview"... Since it's already decided that you'd be employed, it couldn't have been more than being asked personal background questions.]

[Yeah. They asked me about Kisaragi, my special move, and even about heroes...]

(TN: The "interview" takes place in the prologue.)

After my audience with the king, I had to write up my resume. After finishing up my "formal interview," I was reporting to Alice what happened.

[To think that I would be a knight of this kingdom... Well, that ain't too bad. If I can't be the hero, I guess I can be content with being a great knight.]

[Hey, you do know right? That, to an extent, you're always a combatant of Kisaragi... Don't forget your mission.]

As Alice was saying that...

"The language that you two use occasionally... Is that your native tongue?"

When Alice and I were talking in Japanese, a voice suddenly called out to us.

"What, you again?"

Snow was quick to approach us, this time not wearing her armor.

Is that actually a knight's uniform? It's a rather eye-catching blue outfit.

I couldn't really tell before because of the armor, but she's actually the skinny type.

I took a peek at her legs under her skirt... They're really long and skinny. Her looks alone are like that of a top model's.

"What do you mean 'you again?' I never even wanted to see you again!"

Why is this woman so hostile to me...

I mean, I guess she did have a small reason.

"So, what is it? We were about to go to barracks."

At my abrupt words that weren't even hiding hostility, the veins in Snow's temples were bulging.

"I was told to guide you to the barracks. And also to be with you two from now on... "

"... Eh?"

Snow stood straight while saluting at me while I didn't know what was going on.

"I was assigned to your unit as of today. From now on, I am the vice-commander of the unit you lead."

... It seems like Snow belongs to my unit now.

I wonder how this development came about.

"What? I'm a commander as soon as I get here?"

Snow, while still saluting, looked at me with a dumbfounded expression.

"... You, weren't you listening to what Tirris-sama was saying? This kingdom has lost many veteran commanders and knights from its many battles with the demons. That's why there are so many young commanders and female soldiers. Currently, there is a huge lack of people capable of leading units. Didn't you say that you had experience leading units back in your home country? So from today on, although it's called a squad, you will be leading a guerilla unit."

Seems like I can't communicate that well with people of this kingdom...

I didn't think that I'd be appointed a commander as soon as I got here.

"However, I don't think for a second that you're my superior. In actual combat, I'm the de facto commander. All you have to do is make sure not to get in my way by staying away from the battlefield."

What is this woman saying all of a sudden.

"Aren't you coming off a little too strong, just because you were the previous commander of the knights? A long time ago, I also used to be a commander. I can do a lot better than you guys who always lose to demons!"

"... I give my thanks for restoring the artifact. But because of what happened, I don't trust you at all. If you're scheming something regarding this kingdom, it'd be best to give it up early!"

After Snow declared that out loud, she turned around and walked forward promptly.

Is she saying that she doesn't want to be associated with us, and just want us to follow her on our own?

Alice and I began talking towards Snow's back.

"Are you not ashamed venting out your anger just because you were demoted for taking responsibility? Booooo—!"

"Boooooo—!"

"I, I wasn't demoted! Alright, I'm here to keep an eye on you suspicious people! Also there's anxiety in giving authority to someone who's no different than an amateur, that's why I was assigned to this unit! Don't be mistaken on that part!"

As Snow turned around and shouted out her explanation, she looked pretty impatient. Alice and I looked at her face and said,

"...It's only her that thinks she's supposed to be keeping an eye on us right...?"

"Isn't it obvious? Look what happened to the national artifact. Normally, that's a mistake deserving of seppuku. It's so obvious that she's the only one who thinks that way."

"You, Youuuuu bastaaards!!!!!"

Part 7

"This is your room. Everyday things that you need are already inside. And also, what should we do with Alice...?"

After clearing up the whole mess of a situation, Snow pulled out those words as we were being guided to our rooms within the barracks of the castle.

"What do you mean what should we do with Alice? Did she get caught doing something?"

"...Well for starters, outsiders aren't allowed in the barracks..."

Snow said those words as if they were difficult to say. Then, Alice suddenly became furious.

"What!? What, are you saying that the magnificent me is deadweight!? It's a given that I'm a part of the unit that No. 6 will lead! It's because you're like this that you got demoted, you moron!"

Hm, her expression is nothing different from usual, but I think she's probably really mad because her words were really rough.

"Al-Alice. You're so young but your words are so...?"

At the abuse of Alice, who looked like a young girl, Snow's eyes were going up and down as she walked backwards clumsily.

"I don't want to hear that from you since you were talking the same way to your superior, No. 6. If you get it, then hurry up and make arrangements for my room, you cheapskate! Idiot!"

"How...How foul-mouthed is this kid!? Bu-But, the squad is supposed to be made up of 5 people. And each person has a role to play. Fundamentally, there are three knights serving as vanguards, with a magic user and healer in the backlines. No. 6 and I can be vanguards, so the remaining positions needed are another vanguard, a mage, and a healer. What can Alice do?"

Alice went up right to Snow's face that was gazing at her with a doubtful look.

"What can I do? The high-performance me can do anything. My specialty may

be general brain work, but I'll be the medic using technology known as nanomachines. Something you savages won't be able to understand! So if you're going with that party composition, I guess you won't be needing a healer!"

Alice singlehandedly determined that we didn't need a healer. For just an android, she sure could explode in rage as she stormed out of the room. As Snow was watching it unfold,

"Is... Is it really ok to have it her way...?"

Snow had a worrying look suitable for her age while mumbling those words in a tiny mosquito-like pitch.

— — After Snow readied Alice's room, we were taken to the yard of the barracks.

It seems like the people not assigned to units were having combat training here.

"Cease your training! As of right now, we are selecting two members for the formation of our squad! People who are confident in their skills, gather around!"

Upon hearing Snow's words, each individual that was swinging their sword around stopped and gathered.

"Since it hasn't been long since you guys came here, you wouldn't know the habits of each soldier. I'll choose the members for this squad. Here's everyone's resumes. Look over them for now."

Snow pushed onto us a stack of paper while looking as if she's already decided who to select. Then she waited for everyone to gather around.

"Hey No. 6, take a look at this."

As Alice was shifting through the papers, she suddenly stopped, and showed me one.

"'God of War: Alexanderite-Glaveniel' Looks good. His name alone makes me think he's strong."

"No, not that one. Look at his age. He's already an old man over 80. Not him,

these two."

It seems like Alice doesn't think he'll be a strong character since she just called someone with his name, an old man. Alice showed me the two people on the next pages.

"'Artificial Battle Chimera: Rose', 'Archbishop of Zenalith: Grimm'...? I can tell these two are nothing but dangerous. What about them...? Ah!! 'Team killer, clumsy magician: Mirei!' I like her! Clumsy characters are great!"

"A clumsy magician is a walking landmine, no matter how you look at it. Anyways look at this. Look at those two's kill counts. These numbers are incomparable to the rest."

Hearing Alice's words, their numbers are indeed exceptional.

But...

"Even going by that metric, Alexandrite's kill count is still many times more than theirs. We should definitely go with..."

"Forget about the gramps, what are you going to do if he kicks the bucket if you order him to do something strenuous during an operation? Anyways, these two have very interesting titles. I don't really know what an archbishop of Zenalith is, but isn't something like an artificial battle chimera an ideal talent for our side?"

After listening, they are indeed titles suitable for monsters.

"Alright, seems like that's everyone. Then, I will announce who will join the squad. First..."

Alice blocked Snow as she began talking.

"Wait Snow. These two will be joining us."

As she said that, she passed her two resumes.

"What... No, these two are...! At least for one of them, let's choose Alexandrite-sama..."

"Why do both of you like this one old man... Well whatever, introduce these two to us."

Snow, who was scolded by Alice, seems unable to strongly oppose kids. As she quietly muttered her dissatisfaction, she called out the two members.

One little girl came up to the front.

"...Well, you can read up on her file to see what kind of member she is. Hey Rose, introduce yourself."

On Snow's suggestion, Rose...

"I am Rose. That's right, artificial battle chimera Rose... Will you people be able to handle me...?"

Looking at Alice's deadpan expression, with one hand covering an eye, she turned over to me while looking troubled.

She looked slightly older than Alice, around fourteen or fifteen.

I saw a lizard-like tail coming out of Rose's skirt.

On a closer look, a small goblin-like horn sprouted from her short, silver hair. Also her eyes were different colors.

Hm hm I see... An artificial chimera eh...

I copied Rose's pose exactly.

"My name is Combatant No. 6. That's right. After undergoing reconstruction surgery, I am a battle machine who threw away his original name and past. I'm looking forward to working with you, artificial battle chimera...!"

"I'm Kisaragi Alice. In our society, there were many pathetic kids that spoke in embarrassing way like you two. So don't worry. I'll handle you properly."

In her frozen pose from our self-introductions, Rose suddenly covered her face with both hands and started shaking.

"Oi Alice, I tried to pretend playing it cool, you should play along as well... Since you called her a pathetic kid, her face turned bright red and she started trembling."

"I'm not going to play along with this stupid act... Hey you. If it's embarrassing, then don't do something like that again. Come over here."

"Ye-Yes... I'm an artificial chimera, Rose. Please take care of me..."

While her whole face was blushing red, she walked towards us very slowly with heavy steps.

"Well, you have an odd side, but since it looks like you're just following your creator's training policies. It'll be fine if you just follow them."

"The grandpa who made me... He told me to introduce myself this way...! Ugh... Truthfully, I don't really want to do this stupid act, but it was in grandpa's will..."

After Rose burst into tears upon hearing Snow's supplementary explanation, I looked over her resume.

Listed were Rose's past military achievements, as well as her special abilities...

"... What is this? You can copy the abilities of the things you eat?"

"Huh...? Ah, yes. Because I'm a chimera, it's easy for me to receive the influence of the food I eat... Although one or two bites aren't enough... If I continually eat the meat of the beast, I'll be able to copy the characteristics of that magical beast. Nowadays, I've been eating the meat of the powerful unicorn goblin or the fire-breathing fire lizard. Because of that, I have a small horn and tail..."

With those words, Alice and I looked at each other.

[... Oi Alice, she's a monster apprentice.]

[It seems so, We can't let this one slip by.]

"Wha-What is it? I don't know what you two are saying, but I have a bad feeling!... But, huh? Is that some new kind of food? It smells incredible..."

Rose looked scared at the sudden use of Japanese, but she asked a question while sniffing the air.

I didn't eat anything since coming to this planet. So when I was coming here, I opened up one of my rations...

As I was showing her one of the bar shaped rations,

"Are you talking about this? It's everyone's favorite nutritionally balanced, portable, Calorie Z. If you want, I can share it with you. But in return, you have to listen to everything I say?"

"Everything!? Ah..., But this incredible smell is so hard to resist...!"

"Hey No. 6, this scene of reeling in a hungry girl with food is a reportable offense. But I now understand how we can utilize her."

As I waved the rations around left and right, Rose's gaze longingly followed it.

As I was taming Rose with my rations, Snow was looking around for someone.

"Hey Grimm, stop sleeping and get over here!"

A girl in a wheelchair appeared before us as Snow called her.

This girl called Grimm is about 18, maybe 19 years old?

My first impression of this girl in a wheelchair is that she's a sick person.

She had sleepy brown eyes, an ashy pale complexion, and pretty, straight brown hair.

Seeing her sit barefoot in the wheelchair made her look really weak. I began to wonder if she will really be ok.

"I'm the recently appointed commander, Combatant No. 6."

"I'm the advisor and medic, Alice."

Grimm's eyes were lighting up as we were introducing ourselves.

"It's nice to meet you, I am Grimm. I have many questions for the commander but is it alright to ask the most important one right now? Is the commander married? Do you have a girlfriend? For your information, I'm single. I'm a girl of such quality, yet strangely I don't have a boyfriend."

"I'm single. I'm also a good, young man that doesn't have a girlfriend for some strange reason."

"Just what are you two saying right now? Romances between squad members are not allowed! Ask about combat-related things!"

As Snow was enraged and scolding me, Grimm looked a little restless after hearing my reply.

Now, she said to ask about combat-related stuff, but where should I start?

Like who Zenalith is...? Is it really alright for her to go on the battlefield when

she's in a wheelchair... If I think about it, there are countless things I want to ask, but the one thing I'm most curious about is...

"You're a magician Grimm? I don't know a lot about magicians. Just what can you do?"

Under the section concerning special skills on Grimm's resume, there were dangerous things like curses written.

"I'm not exactly a magician... I borrow the strength of the Great God Zenalith-sama, and act as a proxy for miracles."

What could a proxy for miracles be?

"Who exactly is this Zenalith-sama?"

"He is the great God presiding over the undying and disasters. I am one of Zenalith-sama's devout followers."

Presiding over the undying and disasters...

"... An evil... evil god...?"

"Excuse you! You'll receive judgment for calling Zenalith-sama an evil god!"

Normally, I'd have wanted to see her skills, but the idea of curses kept me wary.

Well, I'll probably see it soon enough on the battlefield.

...Or so I thought... Grimm looked like she thought of something, and suddenly changed her sitting position.

Then with a provocative smile, she started to raise her long skirt little by little...

"Hehehe... Hey boy, are you curious of what's under my skirt? Repent for calling Zenalith-sama an evil god. If you do, then I'll give you a peek. Then I'll kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

As Grimm was acting all arrogant, I flipped over her skirt.

She had the image of a weak, pure girl but, that impression changed as soon as I saw black string panties.

This is ridiculous, just how much of a pervert is she?

"I wasn't planning to actually show it to you! You better take proper responsibility! You'll have to make me your housewife and take care of me! I won't let this go! I'll definitely won't let this opportunity pass me by!"

Not just a super pervert, this girl is a landmine.

"Hey, calm down you string panties wearing monster. It's also your fault for provoking No. 6 first."

"What do you mean string panties girl!? Stop calling me that! It was published in Piyoko Club that if I wear this kind of underwear, it'll be easy to get a boyfriend!"

Just what the heck's Piyoko Club? I wonder if it's some kind of relationship magazine.

"If I married every girl whose panties I saw, I'd have a harem so large that I wouldn't even envy the harems of oil tycoons. I'll show you my underwear, so let's call it even black panties girl."

"Don't treat a man's dirty underwear as the same thing as a maiden's panties! And also stop calling me that!"

Snow let out a sigh as she watched our conversation unfold.

"Sigh... To choose the most problematic two out of everyone here... Well it doesn't matter since in terms of combat potential, these two are exceptional."

I suddenly realized something from those words.

The stack of resumes had others included outside of the old man, clumsy magician, and these two strange people.

In other words, this group is...

"Among all of these troublesome people, this unit contains even more problematic ones... Well, pleased to meet you. With that said, I have no intention of getting along with you rejects."

Saying that with a sullen look, Snow turned her back to us and waved her hand feebly— —

...Oi, what do you mean problematic. Don't be ridiculous.

We may consist of a wheelchair-bound, weakly-looking string panties girl, a hungry girl that looks like a demon...

Also, a combatant and an android from an unidentified evil organization...!

— — Without a doubt we are all problematic folks. I sincerely offer my deepest gratitude.

(TN: Sarcasm alert, if you haven't caught it... I wish there was a font for sarcasm.)

... Huh, wait a second.

"Wait, in other words, you're also considered troublesome and that's why you're suddenly here in front of us? Hmmm, your personality is indeed troubling."

Snow was trembling from my words.

"Wha-, wha-, What are you even saying...! N-no you're wrong! Wrong I say! I'm here to watch over you people!"

"Hey No. 6, it wasn't enough for her to be demoted, it's for sure that she got dumped out by Tirris. Hey~, you dumped fool, who's a dumped fool~!"

"Ah, Ah~ha! Ahaha~!"

"Hehehe~hehehe~!"

As Alice was fanning the flames, Rose and Grim also followed up loudly.

While biting her lips and with her temper rising, Snow closed her fists tightly and,

"Ugh, babble on about anything you want! Either way, for the time being, all you guys have to do is follow my commands. Under my lead, I will rack up many eye-catching achievements, then I will immediately be free from this kind of squad!"

Maybe it's from the confidence of being a former elite, but her eyes showed strong determination while she glared in our direction.

"Ah did you hear that No. 6? She just said that she'd finally be freed from this

kind of squad. Just before, she was saying that she was assigned to this unit to watch over us."

"She really did. Did she finally accept that she got demoted? And also, who'd listen to an ex-commander's orders? I also led a unit in the past, so I'll do things my way."

Unable to bear our taunting, the ex-commander raised her brows.

"Don't call me an ex-commander! You're nothing but a newcomer to this kingdom's war! It'll be fine if you just shut up and follow my orders! But first, the weird armor you're wearing is a problem. How do I say this it's... black and looks very evil. You look more like a foot soldier from the demon army than a commander..."

"Don't you give me that attitude! This has nothing to do with my armor! I admit that my battle suit does look evil, but there's no reason to go that far-!"

Although my battle suit is heavy because it's an outdated model, since I've been using it so long, I consider it my fellow comrade!

"You're too noisy! To think that a man who behaves strangely, with a face full of scars, and such rotten eyes would be the commander... With just those traits, I can hear the sound of our honor dropping to the floor!"

"What! You bitch! You, Arghhh...!"

This girl. Though she has a slightly decent-looking face, she's really starting to get on my nerves!

"From the start, you don't even look like you were educated... What do you say to that!? Did someone like you graduate from a prestigious school? For one, I graduated from the best university of this kingdom?"

"Ugh..."

I've never been to college!

I've been very busy with combatant work, so I'm a high school dropout!

"If you get it, just follow my orders from now on! If you can do that, you won't be embarrassed on the battlefield!"

This, this woman... she's getting all caught up in the mood...!

"What's with that look? And your fist looks like it's about to burst? Oh? Do you want to settle this with a fight? It doesn't matter to me. Don't think of me as a girl, and come at me without holding anything back! Can you at least do that much? If you have the guts to hit me, then do it!"

This...!

"You Biiiiitchhhh— — — —- Ahhhhhhhh!!!"

From my shout, Snow flinched a little then readied herself.

With a serious face, I grabbed both of Snow's boobs.

The huge boobs that were proudly displayed upfront.

I'll never forget the dumbfounded looks of the people nearby. That goes for Snow as well. She had her mouth gaping open while she was standing ready for a hit.

Part 8

"Someone, someone help me! There's something wrong with this girl's head!!"

"Just who's a weird girl! There's something wrong with your own head!!"

I've never been in a relationship with a girl, yet now I'm being chased by a girl for the first time in my life.

"Oi, calm down! I'll apologize! I'll apologize, so let's talk this out!"

"There's nothing to be said at this point! Now that I think about it, I should have cut you down the first time I met you!"

She was a girl with bloodshot eyes while she violently swung her sword trying to sever my head.

[To think that you'd draw your sword over having your boobs fondled a little! There's something definitely wrong with your head!]

"Like I said, what's wrong is your head aagh! A person with a straight head would never touch another's chest for no reason!"

It's a very common scenario in mangas when a guy accidentally falls over and touches a girl's boobs.

Then the follow-up scene of the girl chasing the guy around and scolding him is practically automatic.

But this...

"You should chase me with blushing cheeks, or at least use something that'll end with only a bit of pain! I'm not happy at all that you're chasing me with those bloodshot eyes! It's really scary!"

"Of course, because I'm chasing you to end your life!"

"Someone help me please!"

What the heck? This situation isn't playing out with all smiles like in a rom-com!

As I was sincerely asking for help while zigzagging through the castle grounds, there was...

"Tirris! It's Tirris!"

Tirris noticed me and started to make her way here.

"No. 6-sama, what great timing. Actually... What's going on you two!? Just what happened!?"

"Now's not the time! Help me! Help me!"

"Tirris-sama. For showing you such an unsightly display, I apologize! But I must beat this man and cut him down!"

As I was quaking in fear behind Tirris's back, Snow's bloodshot eyes were gleaming while she was approaching my way.

"Beat me and cut me down." Those aren't words a girl her age should say.

"I don't know what's going on, but those that brandish their swords within castle grounds will be sent to the underground prison! Snow, please calm down!"

From hearing those words, she sheathed her sword while her face showed disgust, as if she was eating a tub of mayo.

"... You better watch your back during tomorrow's mission."

Before Snow left, she said to me such ominous words.

...This girl can't be a knight. She's more like someone belonging to our evil organization.

"Whew. I really didn't know she'd go crazy just because I groped her chest. I'm alive thanks to you, Tirris."

"N-No. 6-sama, why did you do something so stupid? Jokes don't really work on Snow. She's different from those who became knights with the backings of their families. She's an orphan from the slums who became the commander of the royal guards through endless endeavor, someone who made it to the very top. A very sincere, hard worker..."

Really... She has so much pride in herself that I thought she was a lady from

some great family.

"Oh yeah when you saw me, didn't you say something about great timing? Do you have some business with me?"

"Yes, actually it's regarding Alice's room— —"

"— — Well, it can't be helped. It'd be even convenient if we use the same room together for the sake of our mission. Hey, you better not do anything weird just because I'm a beautiful girl? The reproductive function isn't installed, so it won't work no matter what."

"Are you an idiot!? You think I'll do anything to a robot? Damn, why would you even think that!?"

They could only prepare us one room because of our sudden employment here.

They requested us to temporarily room together since we were in the same party.

The story that we told them about Alice and I traveling together... came back to bite me in the ass.

"Relax. When you suddenly feel the urge, I'm sensible enough to temporarily leave the room. And if I have to come inside... I'll make sure to always knock and wait for a bit before I open the door."

"I don't need that kind of consideration! Do you think I'm on the same level as a monkey!?"

Let's look at the room they've prepared for us again.

I'm grateful they prepared two beds for us.

Other things included a simple table and chairs, one wardrobe...

And...

"... Look over here Alice, there's a faucet attached there. And look at this, I don't think this is a lamp. There's nowhere to put the oil in. There's also something like a TV without an outlet stuck to the wall. I thought I could be revered as a God if I brought stuff from Earth to this uncivilized land. Well,

seems like that plan's a bust."

"We can't underestimate the level of civilization here. Do you think that lamp or TV works through magic? They even have the technology to make an artificial chimera. The remaining artifacts in the castle... This means that there's a ton of investigating to do. We can't overlook anything."

After putting away everything brought from Japan, I sighed thinking about how life in this land will turn out with just those stuff.

While I was rolling around in bed after taking off the heavy battle suit, Alice said to me,

"Hey No. 6. About tomorrow... From what Snow said, I think there'll be a combat mission. Don't forget our original mission alright? Basically we're on this kingdom's side for now, but if the situation becomes bad, don't do anything crazy and just withdraw. I don't know who planned putting all the troublesome rejects in one place, but it seems there's a very kind-hearted person behind it (TN: Sarcasm alert). If you're careless, you'll regret it."

I don't know if she took a real liking to it, but Alice was earnestly polishing the shotgun with a dry cloth as she was talking to me.

"I know that much. But when we were meeting the King, my knife was confiscated whereas my pistol wasn't. In other words, the people here don't know what guns are. They called that wreck of a tank an artifact. If the wars are fought on the level of swords and bows, then we can pull this off easily. Since I already got my hands on a job and a place to stay, this time I'll rack up at least one huge achievement. Then with the following reward money, I'll secure us a base next...!"

SECOND
CHAPTER



BUSINESS RIVALS
WILL BE TRAMPLED



Chapter 2

Part 1

The following morning.

"— — How cowardly. Aiming for the enemies' supplies? The troops protecting the supplies are normally made up of low-class demons that can't fight very well. Do you think we'll be publicly acknowledged for attacking such a thing!?"

In front of the royal castle, the knights were evenly lined up in the middle while we were placed in the corner.

In front of the neatly arranged knights, someone that looks like the kingdom's general was giving out a speech of some sorts.

And we were not a part of that crowd. We were ordered to do whatever we want because we were considered a useless squad. That's why we were planning our own operation...

"Commander, if it's possible, I also want to fight powerful enemies. My grandpa wrote in his will that I should eat the meat of all the magic beasts in the world to become the strongest chimera."

Does this kid have a grandpa complex...?

If you say it's to fulfill a will... then I, being an evil combatant... The little conscience I have left will waver.

"Mhmm, I do want to help you achieve that but... Can't you just eat the meat of a magic beast that someone else killed? We can ask them to bring it our way."

"If it's not fresh meat, then it doesn't taste very good..."

.... Return my guilty conscience, you gluttonous chimera girl.

"It's as Rose says. Powerful enemy commanders will be among the troops made up of strong enemies. That's where we'll charge forward to cut down their heads. Well, I'll take care of the strong ones. We'll annihilate all the small

fries at once with Grimm's curse. Rose, you follow me! "

Problem is, this muscle-brained girl's eyes are too hung up on achievements.

Snow kept stubbornly rejecting the proposal to attack the supply troops.

No matter how many times I explain the benefits of this plan, she doesn't hear a word of it.

This narrow-minded girl still seems to be harboring a grudge from when I fondled her boobs yesterday.

Meanwhile, Alice opened her mouth while she was observing us.

"Listen well you guys. You seem to be thinking that raiding the supply troops won't be considered a noteworthy achievement, but that's not the case. First of all, you people always charge in from the front like idiots, right? That's why even the enemy won't expect their supply lines to be cut off. They'll be careless and probably won't even have proper escorts. What do you think the enemy fighting in the frontlines will think when they find out that their supply line's been cut off? It'll be absolutely chaotic."

"Ughhh....."

Snow had her brows furrowed as she listened to Alice's explanation.

"And second, without incoming supplies, it'll be a disaster for anyone fighting any wars. Even if the enemy wins on the battlefield... If there are no supplies, they won't even have the option to stay and eventually will have to retreat. If we cut off their supply lines, then even if the knights are defeated on the battlefield, the enemy troops will have to pull back. This one small squad will determine the enemy's fate. Can you really say this won't be a great contribution?"

"...Hmmm..."

How impudent.. Snow was obediently listening to Alice's words, a far cry from when I was explaining the situation.

"Additionally, if we can successfully carry out this operation at least once, the enemy will become wary from then on. What I mean by "wary" is that they'll have to deploy guards to their supply troops. This is to prevent us from ever

attacking their supply lines again."

Like Alice said, even if it's small, we'll be able to reduce the number of enemies in the frontlines.

...Wait a second, I'm pretty sure I explained this one-by-one also....

"What do you think? Attacking the enemy's supply troops is a simple and easy operation. Looking at it in the long run, do you understand how effective it is? I know that you're a knight, but this is war. You have to be ruthless."

"....I understand what you're saying. But, I don't think this will be recognized as a huge contribution.... My salary also dropped from my demotion..... At this rate, I won't be able to pay off the loan on one of my swords from my collection... The Flaming Sword, Flame Zapper... I'm going to lose it...."

Snow was saying that with a face that was about to cry while hugging her sword close to her chest.

A sword collection... Is she a sword maniac?

"If you're worried about that, just leave it to him. Exaggerated contributions? He's highly proficient in overstating his contribution to the highest degree in his reports."

"I see... Indeed, he does have an unethical image."

"Can I hit both of you once?"

Perhaps because she thought our talk was too long, Rose was pressing her stomach as it grumbled regrettably.

"Then is today's mission to attack the enemy's supply lines? Since I always use my salary to buy the meat of magical beasts that I've never eaten before, I'm always short on money... I didn't eat anything since this morning. If I'm not able to eat any magical beasts, I feel like I'm going to cry...."

I'm really curious about this girl's normal diet...

Well, if that's the case..

"You can do whatever you want with the captured supplies. Though I wonder if the bulk of it will be food."

"Then let's go with the operation to attack the enemy supply troops!"

Part 2

"Is that it...? Looks like they really are careless. They're not even wielding any proper weapons. Hey Grimm, wake up."

We were hiding ourselves not far from the road that the enemies were on. We decided to target the slowly approaching enemy supply troops.

We made the small-framed Rose push Grimm's wheelchair all the way here while Grimm was sleeping. Snow kept trying to shake her awake.

Now that I think about it, this girl was also asleep in her wheelchair during our meeting to decide the operation.

"Ugh... What, what is it? As soon as I opened my eyes, I'm right under the sun surrounded by fields... Do you have something against me? Ugh.... I wish the sun would just disappear..."

As soon as Snow woke her up, Grimm was shaking her head while saying some weird things.

"Grimm, the fight's about to start. Pay attention. Although they're just small fries, don't be careless."

As she closely looked around her surroundings, Snow checked up on the condition of her sword.

"If there are only small fries, then it's not yet time for the archbishop Grimm-san to..."

"Oi, don't fall asleep!"

"You idiot, your voice is too loud! They've discovered us!"

One of the enemy troops noticed us from hearing Snow's exchange with Grimm.

— — Are those orcs, the evil creatures commonly featured in Japanese fantasy mangas?

They possessed pig heads and were without any real weapons. They were also bipedal monsters hauling around the supply carts.

By the way... Aren't orcs supposed to be fantasy creatures that exist in Earth's legends?

I wonder why those things are living on this planet.

...Either way, now's not the time for those questions...

"Since we got found out, there's no helping it. Let's go you guys! It's time for battle!"

I rushed out of the woods that I was hiding in, and loudly declared words from the template written in the combatant's manual.

"HAHAHAHA-! You won't be able to pass by heeere!"

As I shouted that, I approached them as I was licking the blade of the knife that I pulled out.

— — The sound of a shotgun roared loudly.

At the sound of Alice's shot, all the orcs fell face down one by one.

"Anyone who resists will be eliminated! If you value your lives, leave everything and scram!"

"Scram!"

As I was yelling the script from the manual, I kicked over the cart that the lead orc was hauling. The cart flipped over.

The following orcs halted their movements since the flipped cart was blocking the road.

As soon as Alice and I assaulted the transportation troops, the orcs struggled to run away while letting out pig-like shrieks.

Rose, who was following right behind us, said in an embarrassed voice..

"C-Commander. Can you not say those words? It's only supposed to be a simple military operation, yet it feels like I'm an accomplice to a horrible, evil deed..."

Even if she says that... This is the formal recommendation of surrender for enemy troops, as written in the combatant's manual.

"Ah, Commander! What should we do with the enemy's supplies? There are tons of them!"

"Burn everything you can't take! We'll carve into the hearts of these fools from the demon king's army, just how terrifying we are! HAHAAHAHAHA! AHAHAHAHAHAHA!"

"Yaay, you're so cool Commander!"

As I was laughing loudly while giving Rose the order to burn everything, I started to feel killing intent coming from behind me.

"Dieeeee!"

"Woaaahahh!"

I rolled over and dodged instantly. There stood Snow, who just swung her sword.

"Oi... Oi you. What did you just try to pull on me?"

"Tsk..."

"Just now you...You clicked your tongue, right!? You really just tried to kill me, right!?"

This girl is definitely crazy in the head!

I can't show my back to her ever again!

Wait a second, since it has come to this... I should just make it look like an accident and...

"What, what's with your eyes? Do you want to fight? Fine, come at me! I'll teach you that there's a high price to pay for touching a maiden's chest! I will turn you into the rust on my sword!"

...As that played out, it happened right when we were about to start fighting...

"Sink in the sea of flames residing in my body...! Sleep for all eternity, Crimson Breath!"

As soon as Rose shouted that, the enemy's supplies were engulfed in a terrifyingly scorching fire.

From the looks of it, Rose was breathing scorching hot flames.

Seeing that, I casually started to speak in Japanese.

[...Hey Alice, is that the special ability of a chimera? Wasn't that kid supposed to be artificial... There's no way that there's more of them on this planet, right?]

[If we take her back to Earth, don't you think she'll become a clean, eco-friendly energy source? Let's investigate later how she can possibly do that. She's actually a pretty interesting fellow.]

The orcs that were engulfed in flames along with the supplies were shrieking in pain and rolling around. It started to smell like cooked pork.

"...Slurp..."

From that smell, Rose started to drool from her soot-covered mouth... Oi.

"You're drooling. Drooling. And your mouth is covered in soot. I'm telling you this again but we're in the middle of battle. So don't eat the orcs ok?"

"Ah!"

Rose hurriedly wiped her mouth with her sleeves. Nearby, the orcs looked ready to counterattack. They grabbed whatever they could and slowly approached us.

"Hey Rose, there's something I want to know. Those words and the cool pose you made... Do you always need to do those things before breathing fire?"

"Please Alice-san, go easy on me! You already know and you're still asking me! It's because my grandpa...!"

While Rose was tearfully protesting to Alice, the orcs thought it was the perfect opportunity to rush in.

But Snow suddenly showed up behind the orcs. Blinding crimson slashes were made on the orcs' backs.

Each time Snow's flaming sword flashed, an orc was shrouded in flames and shrieked in pain while falling down to the ground.

As if that was what a knight should be... I was a little in awe of the skills involved with royal swordsmanship.

[No. 6, even though she's just an ordinary human, she's pretty capable. You don't think there'll be many knights at this level, do you? If that's the case, it might be a little difficult to invade.]

[No, that girl's an elite that became the commander of the knights through skills alone, with no connections whatsoever. I don't even want to think about it if someone like her was an average knight.]

As Alice and I were whispering to each other, Snow quickly caught on and gazed at us suspiciously.

"Hey, there's still enemies around. Stop playing around and... Where's Grimm?"

Now that I think about it, I already saw Rose's skill, but I have yet to see Grimm display hers.

I wanted to see it at least once, the so-called "curse" she kept talking about.

And the person that Snow was calling for was.....

Sleeping in her wheelchair, at the edge of the woods where we were hiding in the first place.

""....HEY.""

My voice that came out naturally, overlapped with Snow's.

"Anyways, this girl... No matter how much she says her body can only operate at night, this is going too far. A severe punishment is...."

With an angry expression, Snow approached Grimm.

As I looked the other way from them...

"Since nearly all the orcs ran away, just leave her, leave her. I'll just push Grimm on the way back."

As I said those words..

A large shadow lingered over our heads.

As I casually looked overhead, there was a --- ---

"What is that?"

A legendary beast, found only in stories on Earth.

A huge beast known as a griffin was slowly descending.

Part 3

""A griffin!""

The beast that was slowly descending had the head of an eagle, the body of a lion, and gigantic wings spread widely.

Upon seeing it, for some reason Snow and Rose were tensing up.

In contrast to those two, because it was Alice's and my first time seeing such a huge animal...

"Oi, that's the famous griffin that shows up often in games and mangas! Even orcs... Why are fantasy creatures from back home showing up here? Oh right, I brought my digital camera!"

"No, calling it a griffin is just your interpretation. Anyways, I wonder on what principles this thing flies? It should be impossible to fly with that size using only its pectoral muscles and wings. If I take it back to Earth, I'd be lynched by aerodynamicists."

I started taking pictures like a tourist.

"Hey No. 6, what do you think you're doing!? Stop playing around and fight!"

As if responding to Snow's warning, a voice called out from the sky.

"Oh my... My business doesn't regard you; it regards that cargo!"

The owner of that voice was riding on the back of the griffin that was slowly descending.

She was a female demon with white hair, red eyes, brown skin, and two horns sprouting from her head.

"— — Damn, I shouldn't have left it all to the underlings. I came here because I thought the supply troops were a little slow, but this is no joke! Really... You've really made a mess here...!"

As she was saying that, she got off the griffin's back. She was a beauty scantily dressed in red.

"Were you responsible for this mess? Hey, you wearing the strange armor. From my observation, you're the leader, right? Say something!"

What does she mean by strange armor... Is she talking about this battle suit?

As the dark-skinned beauty with big tits talked to me, I...

"Excuse me... Hey you, are you even listening to me? For a while, just what are you doing? What's that?"

I was taking pictures of the rare dark-skinned beauty with big tits.

"Hey... Hey No. 6. Hey. If you have to take pictures, then take pictures of the griffin. Why are you just taking pictures of that woman like you're possessed?"

I reluctantly put down my camera because of Alice's words.

"...Yes, it was us that defeated your supply troops. And what about you? Judging from that attire and attitude... Definitely... Are you a demon general?"

At my reply, the busty beauty went "Hmph!" as she proudly exhaled.

"Did you realize that from just a glance? You have a good eye. That's right, I am one of the four heavenly kings of the Demon King's Army, Heine of the Flame. To be able to recognize my strength, you're definitely not an ordinary person."

The girl, who introduced herself as Heine, narrowed her eyes into a smile, and boasted her chest.

"Oh... it's just that... I just felt in you a distinctive aura unique to evil generals."

All the generals on our side (Kisaragi) are nothing but weird people.

Those pointlessly lewd, yet brilliant attires... Even though this is another world, she definitely has to be a general..

That's right, if I put it into words... It's probably an eccentric aura.

"Heh, you're quite capable for a human! Ohoho, I've taken a liking to you. It'd be such a waste to just kill you. If you leave the cargo here, I can at least spare your lives."

Heine seemed sincerely happy as her eyes narrowed again while she suspiciously smiled.

"What foolish words! Do you really think there's anyone here that'd listen to the words of a demon?"

"That's right! Even if up against a general, humans will never yield to evil! And besides, these supplies are my dinner!"

These two were in a rage from hearing Heine's words.

"...Oi, what should we do Alice? No matter how you look at it, isn't she an S-class monster? It'll be hard with our current equipment. I think we should retreat for now."

"This is why you'll always be a lowly underling. More importantly, read the mood a little."

Snow and Rose were surprised hearing our conversation.

"You bastard, you dare call yourself a man? To be scared of the enemy, you should be ashamed! I knew I should have cut you down when I first met you!"

"C-Commander, but my dinner! My stomach feels like it'll disappear right now! Please, we can't go back!"

While I was in the middle of being condemned, Heine initially had a dumbfounded expression, then she started to laugh profusely.

"Ahahahahaha! You're so funny since you're so blunt! How about you join the Demon King's army instead? Since you look like you have the skills... Once we take over humanity, I can even appoint you as their ruler. I can also make any girl you desire yours."

"I'll join."

"Wait No. 6. Don't answer that so suddenly... You... If we have our combatant jump ship, it'll be quite troublesome. Though you're lacking in the head, you're still one of our main fighters."

As if realizing something from those words, Heine kept looking at Alice.

"...Eh?"

Heine tilted her head as she observed Alice with great interest.

"You... You're a human? But for some reason, you smell like a golem...?"

It seems like Heine's mumbling didn't reach the ears of the two who were sending disapproving looks my way.

"So what will you do? Do you want to join me on this side?"

Even though I really wanted to say I wanted to, the glares of everyone were hurting me.

If I joke around anymore than this, I'll really be cut down by Snow.

"I'm sorry. I already have a scary boss, you see."

As I pulled out my knife, I got ready for combat.

"...When we return, I'm going to tell her that you called her a scary boss."

"A-Alice-san, please don't..."

Heine, without any anger towards my response, narrowed her eyes as she laughed.

"Of course. At first glance, you look like someone who says he can do anything, but really, you're someone who can't abandon the weak. My eyes are never wrong. Can you give me your name?"

Really?

Even I didn't know that I was someone unable to abandon the weak.

What's with her? For some reason, her evaluation of me is quite high.

The armored girl who overbearingly ordered me around since our first meeting... The superior, who despite paying me so little, worked me to the bone and even almost got me killed through the teleportation machine... I recalled both faces while briefly considering if I should really jump ship...

"It's Combatant No. 6. Just call me No. 6. Heavenly King of the Demon King's Army, Heine of the Flame."

From having her name called by me, Heine looked sincerely happy for the moment.

"Oh, Oh, is it No. 6! That's right, I'm Heine of the Flame! Heavenly King of the Demon King's Army, Heine of the Flame!"

.....I see...

[Oi, Alice. Seems like she's just like our generals. She's the type that gets upset if we don't call her by her title.]

[In other words, if we call her using her title, she'll feel so happy that she'll be easy to control. She's definitely the type that likes to follow up on her promises..]

As Alice and I were whispering to each other in Japanese, Heine raised her voice with a happy expression. A blue fireball formed in the palm of her hand.

Wait!? Just what is that!? Really what is it!?

That's really magic!

"Just what are you chattering about? Here I come No. 6! Well, I'll make sure not to take your life! I'll make you realize the power of one of the four heavenly kings of the Demon King's Army, Heine of the Flame!"

Part 4

With both my arms, I somehow parried the heavy front paws of the griffin. Then I rolled to the ground to avoid Heine's fireball.

"No. 6, don't get up! Stay down!"

"Wooaaaahhh!"

Just as I was about to get up, the griffin started to attack again.

"Commander, behind you!"

"Aaaaahh!"

As I was dodging around, Heine was about to fire....

"Oi! We have the advantage in numbers! Why am I the only one fighting!? This is wrong!"

As I was shouting these words, I took a step back to avoid the fireball that just whizzed by my bangs.

"For this combat mission, I only brought my flaming sword. This weapon's a really bad matchup against a general that can control fire! I'll burn the enemy's supplies, so keep Heine and the griffin busy!"

"I-I'll go secure as much food as I can before Snow-san burns everything up!"

As I heard those words from my selfish and untrustworthy comrades, I seriously considered betraying them because of the unreasonable situation I'm in.

"Ahahahaha! Amazing! That was just amazing! To avoid the griffin's and my attack, just who are you!?"

Hearing Heine's joyful laughter, I thought to myself that I'll use Snow as a shield... Then it happened.

After I barely avoided Heine's fireball, the griffin that was attacking me roared as it got hit with a bullet to its upper body. The griffin fell back.

From where the sound originated from...

— — Alice, who fired the shotgun, tumbled on the ground.

It seems like she couldn't handle the recoil from the high caliber round she fired.

"...First, thanks to you I have some breathing room. But just how weak are you?"

"Shut it. While you were running around disgracefully, I kept looking for gaps. And right back at you, can't you fight properly?"

As Alice was rising from the ground, she kept her aim on the griffin while she complained.

The griffin began to weakly roar while blood was spilling from its upper body where it was hit with the large shotgun round..

Heine was looking at the griffin with a dumbstruck look. I don't know if she lost focus, but she extinguished the flame in her hand and widened her eyes as she stared at the shotgun that Alice was holding.

"...A kid like you, did this to a griffin? Just what is that weapon? No.. Just who are you two?"

Heine's face was no longer relaxed. She lowered her stance, and changed her attitude.

The air around her changed, it seems like she's seriously recognizing us as enemies now.

My brain was telling me that this girl's a lot more dangerous than the griffin.

Alice probably felt the same thing. She changed her aim from the griffin to Heine while watching her movements...!

"I see the tables have turned somehow. Now, turn into my achievement!"

As she was nearly done burning all the supplies, Snow saw the situation of the griffin being unable to move. Not wanting to miss an opportunity, she headed over this way.

This girl... From the start, she didn't do anything when the general was fighting. Just what's with this girl?

As I was about to shout out my complaints at the greedy woman who only has eyes for merit, it happened..

— — A blunt, deafening sound came from behind.

That was the sound of something very heavy being dropped from way up high.

As I turned around, there was something enormous there.

My immediate surroundings became very dark.

That was because whatever landed, suddenly spread its wings.

Alice suddenly muttered...

"An S-class monster..."

The thing that dropped from the sky.. It had a black luster, hardened body, and the characteristic horns of a demon.

Its height was over 3 meters tall. And it must have been very heavy.

In short, it looked like a huge goblin with bat wings.

While holding a metal club in its arm, it started to leisurely walk around with its wings fully spread.

[Let's use Snow as bait and run. Let's go, Alice!]

[Understood!]

"Hey, No. 6! Don't use that mysterious language in this situation! You guys said some unpleasant things didn't you!?"

Snow was muttering something, but there's no way we're taking on that thing.

Just Heine and the griffin were very troublesome. There's no way I'm going to fight if you add something like that to the mix! When I thought that...

"....Ah... Ara?"

A sleepy voice, that felt out of place, was heard.

As I turned towards the voice, there was a familiar wheelchair right next to the S-class monster.

Even in this situation, it seems like Grimm only woke up because of all the noise and shaking.

As Grimm was rubbing her eyes and looking around, she made eye contact with the large monster.

"Good, good morning...?"

As the sleepy Grimm murmured those words, the monster moved to raise his large metal club— —

— — CRACK. There was a sound of something being completely crushed.

Grimm, who lost everything from the neck up, slowly descended onto her wheelchair.

"Oh... Oi, Grim?"

Seeing the unmoving Grimm, Snow immediately got into her battle stance.

"No. 6! I'll fight that thing. In the meantime, go get Grimm."

Go get Grimm?

I mean... That was definitely a fatal blow.

"Huh? Get what? Is something wrong with your head? She's definitely just a piece of meat now."

The monster swung his club to get rid of all the blood. Then he kicked away Grimm's wheelchair.

The wheelchair was destroyed, while the sound of Grimm's body hitting the ground could be heard.

"Hey Heine, why are you playing around with these small fries? If you're going to pick on humans, then include me too!"

"Tsk-, I wasn't playing around. Well whatever. I lost my interest. Do whatever you want."

Before she left, she quickly glanced my way. Then she left as if this didn't interest her anymore.

— — My brain couldn't digest the chain of events that happened so fast.

Oh right... First, I should go get Grimm like Snow said.

Ah ah, that's right. Grimm should be categorized as a 'magician'.

Then that was definitely some sort of sorcery.

"Hey No. 6, get it together!"

I don't know when Alice came beside me. She was hitting my back pretty hard.

"Ah! Oh, Ok Snow, I leave him to you. I'll take care of Grimm!"

As I said that, I hurriedly ran. Snow also went to the front.

"Ah? You, humans die so easily from just a light hit. It's so boring fighting you. So boring!! "

He only casually flapped his wings, but from just that, a strong gust of wind blew out.

"Ugh...!"

Snow took a direct hit from the wind. She groaned softly as she couldn't get any closer.

"Hey human, I'll teach you my name before you die. So remember it well! I am one of the Demon King's Four Heavenly Kings. Gadalkand of the Earth! Did you memorize it? Good, now hurry up and die!"

While Gadalkand was shouting, Alice fired off a shotgun shell.

Gadalkand, who instantly used his arms to cover his face, shouted fiercely and repelled the shotgun shell. Then, as he started running towards Snow, he kicked the ground with all his strength for his lift off.

[illegible]

In response, Rose took a huge breath.

"Woaah! You insolent fool! Who do you think you are to do something so rude!"

As Gadalkand was about to fly towards Snow, he was suddenly surrounded by Rose's flames.

As Snow was following up, she swung her flaming sword. The flames that the sword was radiating became even fiercer. Gadalkand shouted in pain while he took a step back.

While Gadalkand was flapping his wings trying to extinguish the harmful flames, I ran towards Grimm and picked her up...!

Seems like I saved the day...?

There was definitely no sorcery or anything like that going on here.

Grimm's body, minus the head, quickly lost strength and fell to the ground.

[— — Hey Alice, just what's happening here? Can people of this planet survive something like this?]

[No. 6, think rationally. There's no hope for her. She's already dead.]

Alice told me that while I was still holding Grimm.

Blood started to rush to my head as I heard those words.

Grimm and I only met yesterday.

Although I don't know anything about her other than that she wears string panties, she was still a comrade that I've exchanged words with....

"That bastard, I'll kill him until there's nothing left! Oi, Alice, Snow. Cover me! I don't care if he's one of the Four Heavenly Kings, I'm going to kill him! Rose, I'll leave Grimm's body to you!"

Snow was a little startled at me angrily giving orders.

"A-Alright! Since this guy is one of the enemy's top generals, if we defeat him here, then it'll be a huge achievement."

As she shouted that, she stood right beside me.

"Hah! Why are you getting so excited, human!? You should enjoy life a little more before you perish! You humans have such short lifespans and die so easily!"

"You bastard, I'll definitely kill you! Alice, have the R-Bastard Sword teleported! Because I'm going to rip this bastard to shreds!"

"Ok, got it!"

It happened just when we were all about to make our moves in response to Gadalkand's taunting.

"Just what are you doing here, Gadalkand-sama!?"

A voice was heard from the sky.

From where it was heard, there was a demon that looked half the size of Gadalkand.

"Oh, it's just you? Well actually that's because the one leading the charge in today's battle is that arrogant Russell who's better off dead. When I was casually making my way to the battlefield, Heine was playing around with these fools that attacked our supply troops."

"Heine-sama has already entered the battlefield. The battle has already begun! It's a little troubling that you're playing around with a couple of humans! Even if the supply troops were attacked, the one responsible will be the one leading today's charge, Russell-sama. But, you will be responsible for being late to today's battle that's already started! Even if it's only for our clan, please hurry to the frontlines!"

Gadalkand clicked his tongue after hearing those words.

"Seems like your lives are spared, humans. If you ever see me again, make sure to hide yourselves well! Then, this is farewell! It'll be fine if you cry while carrying that girl's corpse back to the castle!!"

He flew high into the sky as he talked a lot of shit.

"Wait, you bastard, are you running away you coward!? Stop fucking around, and come down right this instant you bastaaard!"

Even after all my shouting, Gadalkand still flew to the battlefield.— —

"— — That bastard... said he was going to the battlefield, right?"

"...Are you going to go after him? That's impractical. You can't keep up with someone that flies through the skies. It'll take some time to even reach the battlefield. Once we get there, the battle might already be over. Anyways, we should do something about Grimm."

Snow said those words as I was muttering to myself.

"...Alice, what about the R-Bastard Sword?"

"I didn't send the memo when that little one arrived from the sky... Should I send it?"

"...No, forget it. Do it after we pay our respects to Grimm. That guy will show up on the battlefields eventually anyways."

I turned my eyes away from Grimm's corpse as Rose was diligently loading the enemy's supplies onto a cart.

This is a little sad...

She may have spoken and acted strangely occasionally... She even slept all the time in the middle of the day... But she was a decent person, just as much as her appearance...

"Snow, what does this country do with the bodies of the deceased? Bury them? Or do they cremate them?"

Even if it's not much, we can still pay our respects..

"...Hm? By chance, did you not hear anything from Grimm?"

"...?"

As I had no clue what she was talking about, Snow continued to talk.

"You don't think Grimm's actually dead, right? She won't die from something like this."

....

"Eh?"

What is this girl saying?

"So, I'm saying that Grimm isn't dead yet. Did you even look at her file?"

As Snow said those words, she pointed to the cart where Rose laid Grimm's body. Rose was still diligently loading food, from the spoils, onto the empty spaces around the body.

I get the feeling of wanting to take just a little bit more... But after seeing the

bizarre sight of a pumpkin-like vegetable placed where Grimm's head would be, I wished someone would stop her.

"Oh, so then... Just what exactly happened?"

When I asked that in confusion,

"I mentioned before that only troublesome folks were gathered in that camp. In Rose's case, it's because as you see, she has the blood of demons flowing through her. Even when that girl has incredible strength, because of that sole reason, she is ostracized and discriminated against. She would be handled outrageously by just about any squad. Orders such as to assault the enemy alone would be given to her... In other words, she would be treated as a one-time use, disposable asset."

.....

"In this country.. So there are people that are so trash that they'd make me look like a relatively righteous, ethical person huh?"

"That's right. Trash, such as you, is prevalent in this nation."

This damn woman.

"And there's Grimm. The god she worships, Zenalith, is a somewhat special being."

Snow, even though she was struggling to continue talking...

"Grimm is an archbishop. Everyone knows that. And Zenalith is an evil god from ancient times that presides over the undying and disasters."

Part 5

When we returned to the castle, we saw that the group of knights have already returned.

Even on the note that we came back carrying the enemy's supplies, it was still too early for them.

On another note, now that I look closely, the number of knights here is rather small compared to the number before we left.

Also these knights were wounded with quite a lot of battle scars.

"Seems like they lost. All their expressions are pretty gloomy. But, this is a good opportunity for us. No. 6, now is the time to boast about our contributions. Bring someone high up over here. Report something along the lines of, "even though you all returned after losing pitifully, with the success of our plan to attack the enemy's supplies, the enemy couldn't stay in this land for long, and had to retreat." Let's take all of the credit."

Alice made a diabolical suggestion that would throw these people, already defeated in both mind and body, into the grinder.

"Leave it to me! I'll tell them we did this operation because something like this could've happened, so they better be grateful. I'll also add that we had one of the Four Heavenly Kings by the foot, while they are in this pathetic state even with all that extravagant upbringing."

"...That's quite... Quite a vulgar act, but you guys are only reliable in times like these. But it's not like I don't like these things. Relentlessly questioning the elite and the strong on why they failed is the most exciting work. Ah ah, I'm only thinking about it but I'm already drooling..."

Just how many people were ruined while this girl was crawling down her road to success?

While I'm now more aware of the real Snow from her next level sadistic remark, I merrily went off to make my report.

— — This is a place away from the capital. It was a temple with a hole in its

ceiling.

The temple looked like it was made in a natural cave. There were evil-shaped ornaments displayed all over the place.

I was amazed that there was such a suspicious site near a village. Grimm's body laid on top of a pedestal in the middle of the cave.

"Are we really resurrecting Grimm in this kind of place?"

After I almost made the higher-up cry, we arrived at this temple.

"That's right. Although we're calling it a resurrection, we're only leaving Grimm in this temple with tributes for her evil god. I think she'll come back to life on her own during the night."

"...By tributes, do you mean all this junk lying around?"

The things that were raised on the pedestal along with Grimm were a ruined stuffed doll, old clothes, things that looked like they were precious used, and also....

"Ah, those are my precious used favorite socks. Since they got holes in them, I brought them as offerings for Grimm's resurrection."

Rose shyly said those words as she looked towards the socks laid out beside Grimm.

Is this for real?

Is Grimm's life really valued the same as a pair of socks?

"Tributes for the evil god Zenalith, whom Grimm serves, are items that people precious cared for and obsessed over. It should be alright with this many items filled with fond memories... Well, I'm going to go eat and then return to my room. There's a special programme about Zoringale Company Knives tonight. I can't miss it."

"Ah, I'm also going to go eat the large amount of rations we secured from today's raid!"

"Since I violently fired my shotgun, I think I'll go do maintenance on it. What are you going to do, No. 6?"

As everyone went about on their own ways...

"Mhm, I'm going to stay here. Grimm will resurrect at nightfall right? I want to see how she actually resurrects, also she'd be lonely if no one was here after she comes back to life.— —"



— — As the sun was setting, my surroundings started dimming.

Finally, the darkness enveloped everything, but Grimm's resurrection still hasn't begun.

I was waiting on my knees, a few steps away from the pedestal where Grimm was laying.

As I was absentmindedly looking through the hole in the ceiling, an astronomical number of stars could be seen.

I guess the air in this world is a lot cleaner.

Or one of the reasons could be because there are no skyscrapers or even streetlights back at the capital.

Should I just take a picture of this instead of getting a souvenir for when I return to Japan?

Wait a minute, I should've photographed the orcs and Gadalkand as well..

While I was thinking about useless things, I felt that the pedestal, on which Grimm was on, was slightly getting brighter.

...No, it's not just a feeling, it's actually glowing.

— — Then, with Grimm at the center, a pattern that was like a magic circle appeared. Suddenly, a blinding ray of light flew through the hole in the ceiling, towards the sky.

Finally, the light dimmed down. The tributes lying around the temple were gone, and Grimm, who was still lying down, slowly opened her eyes.

As Grimm was getting up, she grabbed her head as if she had a headache.

"...Commander? What are you doing sitting on your knees in a place like this?"

"...I was waiting for you to resurrect."

As she was looking around to find something, Grimm had a stunned expression when she asked me,

"Why would the Commander wait for my revival...? Ah, since I couldn't use

any of my abilities before I died, is there some kind of punishment awaiting me...?"

"Huh? No, that's not the case. I just thought you'd be lonely if no one was here when you came back to life. I guess I also had my doubts that if we left the offerings with you, you'd actually resurrect on your own afterwards."

"Seems like I've been roughly handled while I was dead..."

I guess she didn't say anything, out of kindness, about the old socks being around all the tributes.

I don't know whether Grimm gave up looking for that thing, but she looked at me straight in the eyes without her usual restless attitude.

"Anyways, you're quite unusual, Commander. Out of all the squad commanders that I've served under, there was not one kind person that waited for my revival."

"Oho. It seems like this is the first actual compliment I've received since arriving in this country."

From my words, Grimm narrowed her eyes into a smile.

"Yes, I'm complimenting you. Normally, people would look at me with disgust just for being a worshipper of Zenalith-sama, the God of the undying and disasters. And you even talk to me normally even though I'm feared for dying multiple times and reviving nonetheless. Even knowing that Rose had the blood of demons mixed within her, the Commander didn't particularly care about that."

Even if you say it that way, it's only because our organization had monsters that left more of an impression than Rose.

"Commander, I'll give you one advice. It doesn't really matter for Rose or me since we don't die easily, but a squad that consists of only troublesome people will only be sent to the most dangerous places."

As she said that, Grimm had a slightly sorrowful smile.

It's plain to see that this meant many of those troublesome people lost their lives.

Grimm had a very transient expression that made her seem like she'd disappear any second, it was enough to really make me want to ask, "who are you?" She had the impression of a totally different person from the one that would be absent minded while napping.

A squad that raked in only troublesome people.

If they returned alive with a major achievement, then jackpot. If they died, then the brass can just send more people they couldn't bother with.

How should I say this? This is so wrong that it makes our organization look cute.

Once I return to Japan, I should report that such an efficient method exists.

...Well actually, the top generals would definitely hate this kind of cowardly method...

"So that's why, Commander. Being in this squad is dangerous. You should quit. It'd probably be best if you just left this country."

There was something lonely about those words. Seems like Grimm was worrying about me.

Without any thought, I immediately said something in response.

"What? Just what are you saying? There's no way I'm going to leave this squad, you know?"

Grimm had a surprised look from my 'what kind of stupid shit are you saying' attitude.

"C-Commander, in your own words, just what are you saying? This squad is always sent to the frontlines. They only give missions knowing that we're disposable, you know?"

Now that it came so far, I said these words.

"In the organization that I was originally in, we fought hundreds of powerful enemies comparable to those generals from the demon king's army. We sent many to the afterlife on the battlefield."

"...What?"

From hearing that, Grimm let out a surprised voice.

Those were really awful times when we invaded the U.S. from the front, since many heroes lived there.

"Even after clashing with them, look at how spirited I am. Even today, I actually told the bastard that killed you that'd I'd tear him to shreds. He acted like he didn't hear me and quickly left for the main battlefield."

"That's, that's just... How should I put it.. Good luck. Normally, when you confront a Heavenly King-class demon, there's no way you'd be in one piece afterwards...."

Those words weren't enough I guess...

"If they are only at that level, if I'm in a prepared state with all my gear intact, then I can fight up to 5 of them at once."

Those heroes usually come at me in teams of five.

I'm not even a monster, but I took them on by myself before. I nearly died while driving them back.

I grimaced while remembering my unpleasant past. Grimm was so stunned that she closed her mouth.

"...Commander, just who are you? I'm also a little concerned about the strange weapon that Alice was carrying..."

Uh oh, this won't be good for me if she inquires further.

"Well, none of that matters. Now that I think about it, since the current squad members are all girls outside of me, it's my own harem. No matter how much someone pleads for me to leave this place, I'm not going to."

After hearing my words.

"Heh heh... I get it. If you don't want to be questioned, I won't ask any further. Then, from this point on, I look forward to working with you, Commander."

Grimm put on a quiet smile as if she was really happy.

"...Now, it's quite late. What are you going to do now, Commander? Since today was a military operation, tomorrow is a rest day?"

"For real? To think that if you work one day, you get to rest the next in this country. This kind of treatment is just too great. Where I was before, after I returned thinking that I had some time to rest from staying up for 3 nights engaging in guerilla warfare, I had a superior that would use me as an errand boy."

That superior was the selfish general, Black Lillith, who rarely attempts to come out of her own lab.

"C-Commander also went through some very tough times. Maybe even tougher times than what Rose and I went through..."

"That just might be the case."

I only realized this from temporarily being away from the organization, but I'm actually a part of quite a sinister organization.

"I-I see... So.., So Commander, what's your schedule like now?"

"Let's see, nothing so far. More importantly, this country's not big for entertainment. After I got my room yesterday, I wandered the streets for a bit and couldn't find anything more than something like a tavern."

That's right. This country doesn't have convenience stores, places to play around in. No such things.

No, wait. There might be indecent places around, but since I haven't even received my pay yet, I can't even explore them.

Grimm giggled while I was having such thoughts.

"Commander. If it's alright with you... Would you like to go on a date with me?"

Part 6

...Though I'm not a 100% sure, I guess this is what a date in this world is like.

<Atrocity points have been added>

<Atrocity points have been added>

"Ahahahahaha! Ahahahahaha!"

"Hahah—! Let's go! Let's gooooooooooooooooooo!"

Grimm and I were speeding around the capital.

More precisely, I was running while pushing Grimm in her wheelchair.

"Commander, this wheelchair is amazing! It's light and fast. After discovering this, I can never go back!"

"That's because this is also a Kisaragi product! Top quality aluminum frames! Top of the line puncture-proof tires! Grimm, you are the fastest in this nation right now!"

It seems like the item that the recently resurrected Grimm was looking for was her beloved wheelchair.

But that was already destroyed by Gadalkand's kick.

So, I had a suitable wheelchair teleported from Japan...

"This is the best! Tonight is the best night ever! Ah, Commander look over there! I spy a couple in the front!"

"Nice! Brace for impact! We're gonna ram into them!"

"You, fooooooooools!"

As we were enjoying ourselves harassing the couples in this neighborhood by charging at them, a woman, dressed in what appears like a police uniform, was chasing us.

"Hey stop right there, you two! Why are you doing such an annoying thing!? This is the rest area for couples that's right next to the inn for secret rendezvous. If you're going to be going around riding that thing, then go

somewhere else!"

After we stopped moving from hearing that, Grimm looked up at me in amazement.

"Well, that's exactly why we're running here?"

"Seriously... Just what is this woman saying?"

"So it was a premeditated crime!? Please follow me to the police station, I'll listen to your stories there."

Grim broke out into laughter at the earnest-looking policewoman.

"You, who is working late into the night. It's ok to be a little more honest. Now, look around you. Doesn't it make your blood boil seeing all these couples!?"

"No, I have a boyfriend... Ow! It hurts! Stop, what are you doing? I'll put you in jail for obstruction of justice!"

While sitting in the wheelchair, Grimm started kicking barefoot at the policewoman who approached us.

"You could move your legs? Why are you even riding a wheelchair?"

"It's because of the rebound from using a curse. There are various restrictions for borrowing Zenalith-sama's strength..."

A rebound from using a curse?

"Anyways, stop riding around in something you don't even need! ...Really, it's because you do these stupid kind of things that you can't even get a boyfriend..."

As the policewoman thoughtlessly added unnecessary words, Grimm took out a small doll from her pocket. As Grimm started glowing, she opened her eyes and pointed at her.

"You fool, you've said too much! Commander! My power that you didn't need before, I'll show it to you now! Great Zenalith-sama, bring forth disaster to this woman! Suffer dizziness!"

"Ugh!?"

The policewoman, who was pointed at, suddenly started staggering while rubbing her temples.

.....

"Um, is this the extent of your power? Either way, it's a little disappointing.."

"Commander, things like curses don't always automatically succeed. I believe the success rate of my curses is at about 80%. First of all, each time I use an identically worded curse, the success rate drops off a cliff. Also, whenever I invoke a curse, a different tribute is necessary. In cases where the curse fails, I will suffer.... That's right, just like this..."

As Grimm was explaining, she looked sad while she touched her feet.

"...So that's why. A type of curse that weakens one's legs rebounded back to you..."

"No? This is because of a curse that prevents one from wearing shoes."

Stop, and apologize to the compassionate me right now.

"Tsk... It's not much of a power... Somehow, this so pathetic that even hauling you to the police station would be stupid... "

As she was talking, the policewoman, having recovered from the dizziness, sent a pitiful gaze towards Grimm.

After hearing those words, Grimm opened her shining eyes once again.

This time she took out several dolls from her pocket.

"Not much of a power!?! If you're going that far, I'll show you a real curse! Great Zenalith-sama, bring forth disaster to this woman with a boyfriend! Feel the pain of stubbing your toe on the edge of a wardrobe!"

"Ugh!?"

The policewoman, who was once again pointed at, started trembling while keeping her eyes shut.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

In front of that policewoman, Grimm held her right foot while crying out loud.

"Oi, it's dangerous to go on a rampage while on a wheelchair... Ack!"

While struggling around, the tormented Grimm suddenly fell from her wheelchair right in front of our eyes. She hit her head pretty hard and stopped moving around.

...So it's like that. Is this what the rebound from a curse is like?

Anyways...

...Do I have to take her back to that cave again...?

Part 7

The next day.

"This isn't right! This isn't right! This really isn't right!!"

"It's ok, it's ok. You'll become stronger with this."

Since it's a rest day today, I was just lazily walking around the barracks...

"It's unacceptable. No way. Anything bug-related is out of the question!"

"I'm telling you that insects are rich in nutrients. It's a given that you should eat bugs during times for survival. Stop throwing a tantrum and eat them right now."

Recognizing the familiar voice, I opened the door I was passing by.

Inside, there was Rose about to cry while Alice was trying to feed a grasshopper to her.

"What are you two doing?"

After seeing me, Rose hid behind my back using me as a shield.

"Commander, help me! Alice-san is overdoing it!"

As she was begging me, while frightened, she took a quick peek at Alice.

"No. 6, you came at a good time. Hold her for a moment."

"I trust that the Commander would never do such a thing! Because the Commander is a kind person! Aren't you!?"

Coming between these two, I...

"Why are you doing this Alice? Even if you do this, you won't gain any atrocity points, you know? Leave this kind of stuff to me."

"Commander, this is too much! I can't trust anyone anymore! I guess my grandpa was right about humans being foolish, and that that they deserve to go extinct!"

As she was shouting puzzling words while violently hitting my back, I let Rose

go and turned my sights on Alice.

"So, it seems like she absorbs the genetic information of whatever she eats. Then afterwards, it seems like she herself becomes affected by the acquired information? So I became curious just what kind of composition she possesses, and that's what I've been investigating."

Rose does seem to be an artificial chimera, but from what Snow and Grim told me, that's simply what she claims to be. The true identity of Rose is still wrapped in mystery.

Rose simply said she was discovered sleeping inside an artifact from some ruins...

"Say, what kind of ruins was she discovered in? Was there some kind of super civilization in this world's past?"

"We can't overlook that possibility. For the sake of finding out, I want to feed her various things and experiment. And that's where the grasshopper comes in. If she absorbs the grasshopper's genes, it's possible for her to gain the greatest strength."

I see, I understand the situation now.

"I don't understand the meaning behind me eating a grasshopper! There are other meats of even stronger animals!?"

From Rose's tearful counter argument, I received a shock from what I think is called a cultural gap.

"Rose, don't look down on the genes of a grasshopper. It was taboo to even create grasshopper monsters in the organization that I was in."

"That's how it is. Now, just stop resisting and hurry up and eat it. If you eat it all, I'll give you something good to eat."

"I don't know about this! I don't understand what you two are even saying!"

Rose was slowly backing away from us while she timidly asked Alice.

"B-but what were you talking about when you said something good? Is it tasty? I'll give this some thought if you tell me what it is..."

Alice took out a pack of something.

"This is called silicone. If you eat this, your chest will probably grow bigger."

"Great stuff. Oi Alice, go order some more, and let's force-feed it to Rose and make her into a nice busty babe."

"I don't need something like that! I'm fine the way I am right now!"

But, come to think of it.

"I wanted to ask you before, but why are you even here, being exploited by these guys? If you're that strong, there has to be work that pays a lot better out there."

"...It's to find out my true identity. This nation's scholars are currently investigating the ruins where I was found asleep. They said they'll share their research findings if I work for this country..."

Starting with this, Rose told us her story from a distant memory.

In her own words, the old man that made her, lost his life from engaging in the forbidden arts.

The old man, before he performed the ritual, left Rose with his will that had various desires.

To fulfill that will, Rose is now seeking something in particular.

The old man, right until he conducted the forbidden arts, desired a particular stone.

If you brew and drink it, not only can it heal any disease, but it'll become the elixir of life. If you were to use it to make a weapon, it'll become harder than anything and something that can never be broken down.

If it's used as a magic catalyst, it can cause natural calamities. If it's used as an offering during a sacrificial rite, a God will descend.

It seems like Rose's creator was in pursuit of something very amazing.

...For some reason when I heard Rose's story, no matter how I looked at it, I couldn't help but think that Rose, herself was an artifact. The people in this country sure are doing well for themselves overworking her as if it was normal...

Or maybe that's the reason for them paying her a measly wage while sending her out to do all the dangerous stuff?

Man, there's nothing right in this country.

[Oi Alice, if we can get Earth and this place connected, let's send a researcher from Kisaragi to those ruins. And then, let's have Rose come over to our side.]

[I was thinking the same thing. She already looks like a monster. If we can just change her mentality, she'll definitely become an excellent combatant.]

"Wha-, what is it? You two are suddenly using a strange language, what's going on?"

Alice and I grabbed both of Rose's shoulders while she was confused from our sudden use of Japanese.

"Rose, from now on we're going to train your ignorant self. From today onwards, you're officially one of us."

"That's right. Since you're still a young fledgling, you need to be strictly educated in the ways of this world. From now on, think of me as your mom and it's fine to respect me as such."

"Isn't Alice-san younger than me!? Since it seems like you'll cram my head with weird ideas, I'm going to have to refuse... ...Ack, what is this badge!? Don't just stick anything on me!"

Alice stuck the badge that identifies Kisaragi affiliates onto Rose's chest.

"Congratulations. With this, you're officially an apprentice combatant."

"Good for you. From now on, you're not only No. 6's subordinate, you're also our kouhai. Make sure you listen to us."

TN: For those that don't know, kouhai is the opposite of senpai (younger, or less experienced person).

"I'm telling you I don't want it. It looks like you guys are plotting something.... Ah, why are you two suddenly clapping? Please stop. I like where I am right now! Commander, what's that in your hand!? I told you I'm not going to eat that!! I'm not going to eat any grasshopper or silicone!!"



【Interim Report】

Although the transfer point was at an altitude of thousands of meters, we have safely arrived at our destination.

From what Alice said, although the ecosystem looks to be largely different from that of Earth, outside of there being less carbon dioxide in its atmospheric composition, there's really not that much of a difference.

We discovered a vast amount of undeveloped land as well as a civilization.

We haven't completed the surveying of resources, but there were no problems eating the food acquired in the area.

At the very least, if we do something about the undeveloped land, it can solve the food crisis caused by population growth.

Another thing, at the present location, I've been successfully appointed as a combatant.

They've recognized my superb talents and selected me to be a squad leader.

Presently, there are folks with the same motives as us, known as the demon king's army. It seems like the people here are currently fighting with them over a designated zone.

I've met our competitors, the demon king's army in combat and confirmed that there are S-class monsters.

Even though I shouldn't be victorious with my current lackluster gear, I've narrowly defeated them by a hair's breadth.

Therefore, please stop being so petty and send the latest gear ASAP to me.

-Report by Combatant No. 6, who was almost killed by Lillith-sama.

THIRD
CHAPTER



THE PROPER WAY
TO ATTACK A TOWER



Chapter 3

Part 1

Rose is my new toy....

No, that's not it. After we made her one of us against her will, we received several orders to go assault some areas and we were involved in many small skirmishes.

Victories are quite rare nowadays so as we stacked up wins, we steadily increased our military achievements.

That was how I spent my day-to-day, although today was a rest day....

"Strange."

Inside our designated room in the barracks.

Alice was in the middle of disassembling and cleaning her shotgun. She put her hands down and looked up after hearing my mumbling.

"What's with you? Is there something concerning about the movements of the Demon King's Army?"

"No, it's not something trivial like the Demon King's Army."

Alice placed the shotgun parts on top of the table. She changed her posture to listen to me seriously.

"...Ever since we came here, we've already been sent out on several raids, and continually stacked up achievements. And now, even though it's been a while, no one has shown any signs of liking me."

"...What?"

Alice, although she's just an android, made a very funny face with her mouth wide open.

"Don't 'what?' me. Listen carefully, Alice. My squad only has girls. On top of that, I've had encounters with Tirris, the female knights... Heine, even though

she's an enemy. The policewoman as well, even though she has a boyfriend."

"A warning came from that very same policewoman. It seems like Grimm took quite a liking to the wheelchair you gave her. She's been speeding down the streets every day. The policewoman said that the next time she sees her, she'll be arrested."

I ignored Alice's words, and raised my fist to emphasize my point.

"But! There's been so many encounters, but not once has there been a perverted event. Such as when I'm in the middle of my bath, and Snow walks in because she accidentally strolled into the men's bath. Or when I wake up and realize Grimm crawled into my bed because the ever so sleepy Grimm mistook my room for hers. Or when Rose gets hungry, she could've mistaken my... I'm saying that it's strange that there hasn't been any of those events yet."

"Your last scenario was the lowest, but I understand just how strange you are now more than ever."

As if she discovered a rare specimen, Alice looked at me with great interest. I turned to her to continue my speech.

"I brought the first taste of victory to this country that only knew defeat. Although they may have been small skirmishes, I'm still stacking up excellent results! Normally, that alone should be more than enough to fall for me. But I'm still waiting for the event to happen where I collide with a girl around the corner of a hallway that ends with me fondling her boobs as a result of falling down! Every day, I'd sit around the corner of the hallway, so it's not like I'm not putting in the effort!!"

"There are complaints coming from all over the place asking you to stop that because it's obstructing them."

As I was poking Alice's head for continually interrupting me,

"To receive a confession from a beautiful girl while a coincidental gust of wind prevents me from hearing it... I want to be yelled at by that girl for not realizing her feelings while being called a dense idiot! Then... Then, I want to be asked by a ton of beautiful girls about which one I would choose!! I want that kind of chaos... Oi, where do you think you're leading me while grabbing my hand?"

"Mhm, okay. I get it, so follow me to the infirmary. I'll give you a thorough medical examination."

I brushed away Alice's hand.

"I'm not crazy! However, it's a little strange. Only looking at this country's knights alone, the percentage of women is way too high! How is it that there are so many girls around, yet I'm still waiting for my lucky erotic event!?"

After hearing my soul pour itself out, Alice let out a very deep sigh.

I thought about this occasionally, but there are times when she's actually like a human.

Alice took my right hand and placed it on her chest.

I didn't know the meaning of this and silently looked on.

"Ah. Ah."

With a deadpan expression as if reading out loud from a textbook, Alice started to moan. I once again brushed away her hand.

"It must feel good for you to touch a beautiful girl's chest. I hope you can be content with just this for today."

"How can I be happy touching the silicone attached to a robot's chest!? And at least put some emotions behind your moaning! And again, no. It's not like that! I mean, of course I want to do erotic things!"

"Alright, I understand now so calm down a little. Let's go to the infirmary now. Hmmm?"

While Alice was trying to calm the agitated me, a knocking sound came from the door.

"Your rowdy voice can be heard way beyond your door! Just what do you think you're shouting out loud!? There's going to be a meeting right now. You've been summoned as well... Saying erotic stuff and whatnot! You saying that out loud will turn me into a laughingstock for being in the same squad as you! So stop it!"

A bright red faced Snow opened the door and informed me of my summons.

"— — The Hero-dono's party was defeated by the demons guarding the top floor of Duster Tower. Gil of Power and Rista of Knowledge dealt heavy wounds to them. Currently, they are receiving emergency treatment from the healers that were dispatched."

We were currently in the conference room within the castle.

The commanders of every squad were gathered here to listen to the situation from the general.

There was a great commotion after the news of the Hero's defeat.

"Quiet! Luckily, even in this unfortunate situation, the Hero-dono's wounds are not fatal. It seems like it won't be difficult healing him."

All the commanders were relieved from the good news.

"But, as you all know, our country is currently losing ground to the Demon King's Army. It's fortunate that the Hero-dono didn't die, but now there's a problem because of the defeat this time."

The meeting room was dead silent as everyone was waiting for the man's next words.

"What I mean by that is we no longer have time. In terms of overall strength, though frustrating to admit, the Demon King's Army is a lot stronger than us. If this war is prolonged, it is guaranteed that our country will fall. Our only hope was for the Hero-dono to slay the Demon King before that happened. In other words, although it might be harsh to say this about the Hero-dono, if he doesn't hurry, then the situation will only get worse. And in this predicament, he suffered injuries."

Dreary expressions formed on everyone's faces.

"I have asked the Hero-dono, who is currently undergoing treatment, why he went about attacking Duster Tower. Apparently, a treasure that's necessary to attack the Demon King's castle is stored there. In other words, upon the completion of his treatment, the Hero-dono will strike the tower once again. But, we're running out of time...."

As everyone was quietly listening, the man slammed the table.

"For that reason... While the Hero-dono is recovering, we will use our full force to attack Duster Tower. We will use the full might of our nation to take the necessary treasure! For the sake of defeating the Demon King even a second faster!"

The conference room exploded in cheer.

Every squad commander was unified in excitement.

...Still, this is a lot different from the 'heroes' I know of....

I thought a hero would be sent by the King to take down the Demon King with the absolute minimum amount of help. It should have been the hero's duty to figure out the weaknesses of the Demon King. To think that the whole nation would be behind him..

Wait a second, now that I think about it... The hero is a prince of this nation.

If that's the case, then it wouldn't really differ from the tales of the past. Isn't it a given that the whole nation would, at least, support him?

Since this isn't really a place where I can voice my complaints, I idled around the table in the conference room.

"Please wait a moment. General, is there a plan of action for attacking Duster Tower, when even Hero-dono failed?"

The person who chipped in was an older man with thinning hair and a scar over one eye.

He was definitely the military advisor. While the folks here were losing battles, I was boasting of our achievements and almost brought this man to tears criticizing him.

"Duster Tower.. The tower's interior is practically hollow. From the interior walls, there's a spiral staircase that leads all the way to the top. By going up the narrow staircase, there will be encounters with the demons protecting the tower. Soldiers injured during combat will be replaced. There's no other option, but to utilize our numbers and slowly march up. There's no guarantee that the raid would be complete by the end of the day even if we were to start the operation in the morning... Advisor, do you have a better plan to deal with the

demons?"

When put into the spotlight with a follow up question, the old man quickly became flustered.

Seems like he didn't have a better alternative.

"Ah, no. I don't have anything in particular..."

Stay in there, old man.

... As I was thinking that, for some reason, he took a sideways glance at me.

What is it, old man? I don't have a lifeline for you. Even if I could give you one, I wouldn't.

"Racking up achievements one after another lately, as well as coming from a different nation. If it's No. 6-dono, wouldn't you be able to think up a strategy that we could never concoct ourselves? Since you were able to criticize us so thoroughly for our poor performances in past battles..."

It seems like this old man was holding a grudge from the past.

After he said that, everyone's gazes turned to me.

...I'm definitely going to make him lose more of his thinning hair for this.

The general locked eyes with me.

"No. 6-dono, do you have another way to deal with the demons?"

...Well there is, but I don't know if they'll accept it.

Because these guys and knights of this world have completely honorable mindsets, and me being from an evil organization... Our ways of thinking are completely different.....

"Let's light it on fire~"

As if the table was flipped over, instantly, everyone's heads tilted towards me like I was a hopeless case.

"You mean attack with fire? But the tower is made of stone. I don't think fire will have any effect...?"

A female commander nearby asked me the question.

"That's not what I meant. Since the tower's interior is hollow... If we secure the ground floor, then after we open the entrance, I'm saying that we should make a campfire in the middle of the open area. From the enemy bosses to the rest of the demons within the tower, we'll have them scorched all at once until they're nothing but ashes. It'll be fun!"

.....

"Wha-, uh, what does everyone think of that? I mean, certainly it'll be effective. It'll be effective, but..."

From the flustered general's words,

"Even if they're demons, isn't this a little too harsh..."

"Although our own damages will be small..."

"Pardon me, is this really ok to do as a knight?"

Once again, the conference room erupted into chatter as each commander was voicing their thoughts.

.....After ten minutes...

"This, this never happened! No. 6-dono, although you gave us a plan, we're going to act as if we never heard it, and proceed with our original frontal attack."

Every commander nodded their head in agreement.

Part 2

The tower was vacantly standing alone in the middle of a vast wilderness.

It had white walls and was about the size of a small skyscraper.

There were already many knights deployed inside and they've managed to secure the ground floor, where there were many areas to fight in.

Alice approached the tower. She started knocking on the outer walls as if it was of great interest.

"It seems like we can take it easy till evening."

""Eh...?""

Snow and Rose blinked their eyes as if they couldn't understand what I just said.

Grimm was already next to me sleeping peacefully on her wheelchair, as usual.

"What are you saying!? The attack on the tower has already started!! Also, there's a fearsome demon that has already defeated the Hero waiting in there! If we win this, our accomplishments will soar through the roof!!"

Snow was very excited with her fist held high as she was lecturing me without pause.

"Hey... Isn't the Hero person supposed to be really strong? So strong that he would never lose in a 1 vs. 1 against one of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King's Army? I don't want to go out. It's scary. I don't even want to think about the risks, that's why I'm going to take a nap right here. Since we brought such a large army, at least one of the squads should be able to finish up here. Once it's evening and Grimm wakes up, if the raid on the tower isn't finished, then we'll talk."

After hearing my words, the veins on Snow's temple were bulging and her face reddened in a flash.

Why does this girl get agitated so easily?

"You bastard! Based on the last few battles, I thought I could trust you, but I see that was a mistake on my part! You coward! So be it, I'll go alone! If I have any great feats, I won't share any with you!"

Snow spat out those words and started stomping towards the tower.

"Hey, commander... Is this really alright? To let Snow go out on her own...?"

Rose was gazing worriedly at Snow's back.

She looked like she couldn't decide whether to run after her or not.

"It's ok, because she's strong. Besides, soldiers from our side are scattered all over inside the tower, so there should be no problems. Maybe she'll get tired soon and come back."

— — After a couple hours.

"...Hah... Hah..."

She really came back because she was tired.

"Hah... Hah... It's almost evening, No. 6... Is, Is Grimm still not awake?"

"I think she's going to wake up soon, but it seems like she's in some fun nightmare, so we were all watching her for a bit."

While sitting in her wheelchair, Grimm was drooling and mumbling around.

"Aaah... Snow is... Snow is blushing while telling the Commander... That he can do anything he wants to her chest... Such indecent actions..."

"Wake up, Grimm! You're dreaming such a stupid dream! Oi, wake up! If you keep dreaming this weird dream, I'm going to slap you!!"

As Snow was violently shaking her, Grimm slowly opened her eyes.

"Ah! ...I just had an amazing prophetic dream..."

"That's enough, you can sleep more. I'll bury you after I cleave you in half."

"It's been a while since she's been awake, don't try to make her go to sleep again. Anyways Alice, how's the situation? Do you think we'll be able to go?"

After I calmed down the cold-blooded Snow, I asked Alice as she was examining the outer walls of the tower.

"Mhm. The tower is a solid structure made from stone. It won't collapse from a small hole in it. First, be wary of the wind that's picking up while you guys go up. Also, since it's getting dark, be careful where you put your hands. And take off all the heavy armor before you go. Everyone, proceed while wearing things easy to move in."

Snow had a suspicious expression after listening to Alice.

"What's going on? Just what kind of thing are you scheming again?"

"How rude to call it scheming. Aren't we going to attack the tower? I think it's about the right time."

Snow seemed to be even more suspicious now.

"You... Didn't you say you didn't want to because it was scary? What brought about this wind of change?"

"I said I didn't want to because it was scary if we're supposed to assault the tower head on. Although not as much as you, but I do want to rack up more achievements. And I want to do it in the easiest, least dangerous way possible. All this time, I've been observing everyone constantly fighting, and it seems like quite a few teams faced the bosses on the final floor. How'd it go? Did the bosses receive any injuries? Are they even a little bit weaker?"

Snow looked astonished from my question,

"You bastard, now you're freely revealing your underhanded ways.... Many people made it to the top floor. Even though they were well prepared, the awaiting bosses instantly defeated them. It seems like the enemy duo has a very powerful, coordinated attack. Currently, our side is thinking of possible weaknesses that they might have."

As Snow was finishing up, a sound arose.

From the outer wall of the tower where Alice was clinging to, a clanking sound could be heard as if someone was hammering something in.

As I looked towards where the sound was coming from, I saw Alice's figure after she hammered in an iron stake.

"Mhm, it's working fine, this will work. It's simple to hammer it in. No. 6, take

this."

A compact-size climbing hammer was in Alice's hands.

Although it was originally a tool used to hammer in stakes into bedrocks...

"...What is that tool? ...No, there's no way..."

After seeing that, Snow was starting to break out in cold sweat.

"Alright, shall we get started? You really think you can raid this place from the inside? You people are so frustrating. The demons will be busy taking care of the soldiers coming up. It's also pretty dark right now, so we won't be discovered climbing up the outer wall. There's no way they'd expect us coming up this way."

Part 3

"Hey, go around that way! Take out those demons that use magic first! The damage will be spread out!"

"Push forward! We'll take them on with our numbers!"

The sound of chaos could be heard while I was leading the slow ascent from the outer wall with a small climbing hammer.

The sound of each stake being hammered in was obscured by the loud battles taking place inside the tower.

"Is... Is this kind of method even allowed? This.... this...."

Snow was mumbling to herself while following right below me.

Snow was without her armor, and had her sword strapped to her back.

The other members were also without any heavy gear, and were climbing up in an unencumbered state.

"Oi Snow, they probably can't hear because of the battles going on, but since you never know, keep it down. If the enemy notices us here, then we're all finished. If you have any complaints, take it up with Alice, who came up with this plan."

I was without my battle suit right now. If I fell from this height, nothing would be able to help me.

We were fairly high up right now. As strong winds began to hit us, I firmly grasped an iron stake and made a new handhold with it.

I wonder just how many times I did this.

When we could slowly see the top of the tower, Snow started to quietly whisper.

(...Oi. Oi, No. 6!)

I also quietly whispered back.

(What is it? Why do you sound so desperate? You... You're not about to say

that you have to go to the bathroom right now, are you?)

(That's not it! That's definitely not the reason...)

Then what is it, you're acting so strange.

(...I'm at my limit right now from swinging around my sword earlier in the day. What should I do? My arms are starting to tremble.)

(You idiot, if you fall from this height, you'll die! Also if you fall, look at the order we're in, everyone below you will be swept away as well!)

(I-I know! That's why I asked you what I should do! No, this is really dangerous. Wha-. Wha-what should I do...)

Snow, who never liked to lose, looked up at me as if ready to burst into tears.

Since this was a new look, I really wanted to let her have it. But if this stubborn girl would say such weak words, it really means that she's almost reached her limit.

(Ah really... There's no helping it, give me your hand!)

For now, I put the climbing hammer in my mouth. After grabbing an iron stake with one hand, I used my other hand to grab Snow's hand.

(Oi, oi, just what are you thinking of... Eeeek! To think that I'd be dangling in the air with one hand, I'm getting goosebumps all over!)

I pulled the noisy Snow all the way up to my shoulders.

Frankly, pulling this off without my battle suit is quite difficult.

Although I'm a modified human, my physical specs are only near the very peak of human limitations.

Even I can't hold onto the blade-wielding Snow with only one hand for long.

While I had the climbing hammer in my mouth, I sent Snow a gaze to hold onto my back.

(Kugh. I'm... I'm sorry.)

Although it's impossible for her to climb up on her own, it's possible for her to make it by holding onto my back with both her arms and legs.

After Snow wrapped her arms around my neck, I confirmed that everything was set and started to make my way to the top once again.

...Wait, this is...

(Hey, hold on properly! Stick closer so that you don't pick up any more wind resistance!)

(A-alright. Is this fine?)

I felt something soft press on my back.

It's finally my desired ero event. I offer my most sincere gratitude.

(For the first time today, you finally did something right. If you're going to be deadweight, at least spread your chest out and move closer.)

(You, in a time like this! I always knew you were human scum.)

(Sh-shut up! Your big boobs are your only good point. Since I'm letting your only good point shine, you should be thankful!)

(You bastard. Once this operation is over, come behind the barracks!!)

While we were going back and forth quietly, the top floor was finally within my grasp.

I checked up on everyone below, it seems like they had no problems following.

It's a given for Rose, who's physically fit. But even Grimm who's always in a wheelchair... I don't know if it was because it was night time, but even she seemed alright.

As for Alice, she was relaxed because an android never tires out. That may be why she was occasionally peeking through the tower's windows to see what was going on inside.

I let everyone know in a quiet voice.

(Alright, I'll go up first and scout out the situation. You guys follow up once I raise my voice.)

Everyone besides Snow, who was still on my back, nodded their heads.

After I hammered in the final stake, I peeked my head out and scouted out the situation.

Two demons were standing on the top floor that was completely enshrouded in darkness.

A huge demon, with a head of an ox, was wielding a gigantic axe while blocking the entrance from the stairs. And a small distance away, there stood another demon, with the head of a goat, wielding a staff.

Intruders could only fight one at a time because the stairs were quite narrow to fight in, while the enemy could fight in a wide, open area with a lot of cover.

I see, even though they're the enemy, that's a pretty good idea.

(Good, since we haven't been discovered, seems like this is a good chance. Let's go and begin the fight once everyone's here.)

Snow whispered those words while clinging to my back....

From the far side of where I was looking at the situation, the two demons looked very defenseless with their backs turned to me. It seems like they were happily having a conversation.

"Fuhahaha, how many teams have come, brother? I have yet to even receive a scratch!"

"Heh heh, it's too bothersome to even count so I wasn't keeping track, brother. We've already defeated that Hero, so a team of ordinary knights or soldiers are no match for us."

I climbed up without being detected while Snow was still on my back.

The two demons were continuing their conversation happily. Seems like they haven't noticed us.

"Exactly. We've made a mess out of the Hero. You think we'll be promoted to the Four Heavenly King-class? You know, it wouldn't even be surprising if that's exactly what Demon King-sama does?"

"Ah, even the Four Heavenly Kings couldn't take down the Hero. Even though we couldn't take his life, I'd call it a success to even give him such a grievous wound. You think it's fine now to go around saying that we've surpassed the

Four Heavenly Kings?"

(Alright, now we just have to call everyone up... Oi, No. 6?)

While ignoring Snow's whispers, I crawled closer to the demon with the goat head.

"Fuhahahaha, our dreams are getting grander, brother! Indeed, if we're together, we're invincible!"

"Heh heh heh, indeed. With our combo, whether it's the Hero or the Four Heavenly Kings... Even the Demon King-sama will have trouble you know?"

The demon with the goat head seemed happy while still not realizing what's happening over here.

He was a bit apart from the stairs. He was at the edge of the floor, joyfully watching the battles unfold below..

As I was getting ever so closer to the goat-headed demon's back...

(O-oi No. 6. I think this is far enough. Hurry up and call everyone up, and let's take on these...)

"Fuhahahaha! Brother, each time we fend off an intruder, surely our fame will increase!?"

While the ox-headed demon was loudly laughing as if he was satisfied...

(N-No. 6?)

With Snow still on my back, I slowly got up to my feet behind the goat-headed demon...

"Heh heh heh heh! Of course, that's the case! One day, our fame will be renown throughout the world! Gil of Power, and Rista of Knowledge ..."

— — While he was excitedly going on about knowledge or something, I pushed him off the tower.

"Aahhhhhhhh! No. 6, just what do you think you're doing!?"

"It's fine now! Everyone, it's now your turn! Get on up here!"

After I called everyone up, Snow got off my back and drew her sword. She

took a ready stance while looking very dissatisfied.

"Oi No. 6, isn't that really lacking in humanity!? Even I can't help feeling sorry for it! I've never heard of a time when the boss fell off the tower before the fight even began!"

"What!? W-where did you bastards come from!? How cheeky. Oi Rista, let's do that! Our killer move-"

While the rest of the squad was making their way up from behind us, Gil was looking all around the place.

"...Rista? Oi Rista, where are you?"

Of course, his gaze eventually met ours.

And then our eyes naturally looked towards where Rista fell off.

Gil threw away his task of guarding the stars, and urgently ran towards where Rista fell off.

"Ri-Rista! Ristaaa!"

"Help, help me Gil-!"

After hearing that, I glanced towards the bottom of the tower. The goat-headed demon, known as Rista, was desperately hanging from the edge of the spiral staircase.

"Tsk, so it failed! Oi Alice, you think you can shoot that thing to make it fall?"

"Making it fall will be easy. There's no need to waste precious ammo, wouldn't simply throwing a rock suffice?"

"Well, that works too. Let's go with that..."

While I said that, I picked up a suitable rock.

"Stah-stop, stop it! Don't you lay a hand on Rista!"

While Gil announced that, he stood between us and where Rista was hanging from.

"I won't let you lay a hand on him! I don't know where you came from or how this even happened, but I will definitely protect my brother!"

"Uhh...T-this will be tough..."

Rose mumbled behind me.

However, we're still in a good situation.

"Surround him! And, if he tries to attack one of us, then the rest of you throw rocks at the one hanging below!"

"Good job, No.6. That's a great plan worthy of a model Kisaragi employee. By letting him hear you give out orders, he won't attack us rashly now."

That's right.

"Yo, you said you were Gil, right!? Heh heh heh, It's alright to move if you want to, but if you do, I wonder what will happen to your precious friend? ... Alright you guys, Snow and I will be on standby with rocks, at hand! The rest of you, keep your distance from him and bombard him with long range attacks!"

""U-uuugh.....""

The members, outside of Alice and I, looked very disgusted. Meanwhile Gil of Power courageously resolved himself. He held his axe in hand and started to wail out loud.

"Daaaamn iit!!"

"— — Gil! Gil! Are you ok!?"

Rista of Knowledge was shouting while coming up from the stairs.

"Well, he's not ok, but he's still alive."

Since he was more persistent than expected, when Gil was downed, Rista was gone from the spot he was hanging from.

Seems like Rista gathered up and led all the demons of the tower to where Gil was...

"You, you bastards...! Not only did you push me off the edge by ambush, but to even prevent Gil from fighting back....! Un-unforgivable! All of you will be massacred!"

I put my hand out towards the enraged Rista with bloodshot eyes.

"Jeez, didn't you hear what I just said? He's not ok, but he's still alive. Yeah, I said he was still alive, ok?"

While each side was warily keeping the other in check, I smiled at Rista.

I only smiled to lower the tension, but for some reason, Rista took a step back.

"...Here, your precious comrade is lying around and dying. If you treat him quickly, he might be able to survive... So then, here's a question for you..."

Rista took a big gulp as he saw my smile becoming bigger.

"How much will you cough up for your very own partner?"

As soon as I asked the question, the all too familiar voice could be heard in my head.

<Atrocity points have been added>

Part 4

A knock on my door could be heard.

"Hey No. 6, are you in there?"

It was Snow's voice calling from outside.

...Well, it can't be anything big...

"If it's the tidy and kind No. 6 you want, he went out to the riverside to pick up trash."

"Cut the bullshit, I know you're in there!"

Snow shouted in reply while storming in.

The time was almost 10PM. It's a little late to visit someone.

"What do you want at this time? To think that you'd come to a man's room this late at night. Are you seducing me, Big Tits?"

"Don't call me something so stupid! What are you going to do if someone else hears and it catches on!?"

"Hey, Big Tits. I know what's on the minds of you two young people. Should I leave the room?"

"You brat! Alice, even a brat like you is saying such a thing!"

While she was huffing and puffing, Snow gave me a big leather sack.

"What is this...?"

I casually opened the sack... And then, I tensed up.

"This is your pay. The reward from the results of the latest battle is also included... I still can't accept this. I can't accept your method of attacking the tower, and I also can't accept using that tactic of pushing over a boss."

As if doubting the reason of why I'm so tense, Alice also looked inside the sack.

"Wow..."

"The thing that I can't accept the most is the fact that you made a deal with the demons! Although we didn't suffer any losses and secured the treasure, using a hostage is not right for a knight... Hey, why are you so tense?"

My mind was too far gone to listen to any of Snow's ramblings. I looked into the contents of the sack once again.

Gold coins... It was filled to the brim with gold coins....

"Hey, Snow. Just how much value do these coins have in this country? "

"Value? Ah, that's right, you said that something's wrong with your head and you can't remember many things... Did you really forget the value of money...? If it's that much, one family can live extravagantly for about a year."

"...Seriously?"

I was stunned while clutching the sack tightly. It seems like Snow interpreted it differently.

"Hmm... Are you dissatisfied with the amount? I understand, I also have my complaints regarding the money. But, even though you've contributed that much, you're still only a squad commander. If you attain a higher rank, you'll receive a reward that will make that look insignificant. A proper reward fit for the contribution you've made..."

Before Snow even fished, I started a serious talk with Alice.

[Alice, I'm going to quit being a spy. I've decided that my remains will be buried in this country.]

[Wait, don't be in such a hurry. Is what you're saying in Japanese what you really think?]

I looked at the serious-looking Alice who interrupted me.

[Ok, listen carefully. When I barely returned from fighting in the Sahara Desert for over a month, without any words welcoming me back, my boss sent me out on an errand to get her some potato chips. And my salary doesn't include any insurance and a lot of other things, and it still only comes up to 18,000.]

[Actually, it's amazing that you haven't already quit.]

Snow looked very suspicious while we were conversing in Japanese.

"What's going on you two. Why are you talking in another language?"

"Don't worry about it. No. 6 just started talking in his native language because he became too excited. It's because the money he received exceeded his expectations."

As if expressing that she couldn't understand, Snow tilted her head and,

"Is, is that so? Then it's alright... This is your share Alice."

"Ooh, thank you. This is the second time I've received something from someone since I got my shotgun."

Although she did say to give her a shotgun as a present, Alice just used my points and simply ordered whatever she wanted. I didn't think it was that great...

While still embracing her precious shotgun as usual, Alice looked to be in a good mood while receiving the sack. As I watched on...

...Well, it looked like she took a liking to it. Once again, I thought that it wasn't something worth pondering over.

【Interim Report】

It looks like there are daily battles going on between the country I'm affiliated with and the other side.

Currently, my squad has made huge contributions because of my blindingly brilliant performance.

I've received gold coins as a reward that, if converted to the Japanese yen, would be worth millions of yen.

I've received gold coins as a reward that, if converted to the Japanese yen, would be worth millions of yen.

At this point in time, there are no problems or hindrances concerning the mission.

I will contact you again next time.

Report by Combatant No. 6, the man who was awarded gold coins worth millions of yen.

P.S. I hope there are better working conditions on the way.

FOURTH
CHAPTER



HOW TO TAKE DOWN
A DEMON GENERAL



Chapter 4

Part 1

"The Hero's party used the treasure that we've acquired, and it seems that a road to the Demon King's castle has appeared. This means that even the enemy has no choice but to be serious now. We just have to stay and defend the castle until the Hero defeats the Demon King."

"So it comes down to whether the Demon King's Army can take us out first or if the Hero can defeat the Demon King first?"

We were talking about the situation while we did maintenance on our own weapons. At that time, there was a sudden knock on the door.

"Hey No. 6, are you in there?"

As if displeased, that was Snow's voice.

"Well, I'm here... But I don't really want to see you."

"Stop trying to be funny, it's better if you just say you're not here!... What, are you doing maintenance on your weapons?"

Snow gazed at the knife that I was sharpening on the desk.

"... Hey No. 6, can I see that knife for a bit? I thought this before, but that really looks like an amazing blade."

"...It doesn't matter to me, but you can't have it, you know?"

I turned the knife's grip around, and handed it to Snow.

"How marvelous...! Hey, does this child have a name? If it doesn't, then can I name it? And also where was this made.... What, what are you doing, let go! I didn't get to see it enough! Wait, I'll sharpen it for you... Ah!"

With a dangerous look in her eyes, Snow was about to light the knife on fire so I took it from her hands. She let out a small shriek while sending me a chastising look.

"Just why are you here? Are you here to take my knife?"

"T-that's right, it's because you have such a beautiful thing. No, wait...!The

general is summoning you. Go to the conference room. It seems like he wants us to do something."

— — When Snow and I arrived at the conference room, only the General and the advisor were there. Just those two old men.

As if telling me to sit down, the General offered me a chair.

"You did well to come here No. 6-dono. Your accomplishments up to now, regarding the Demon King's Army are most impressive. Especially the fact that despite fighting with one of the Four Heavenly Kings multiple times, you are still alive and well. "

"Well, doing that much was nothing special."

"You, how dare you!?"

All I did was answer in the affirmative, yet the advisor seemed to be giving me a warning. I wonder why I was even called here.

While the General looked like he had trouble bringing something up, Snow, who guided me here, opened her mouth.

"General, do you want to give us some kind of special mission?"

After Snow threw out a lifeline, the General nodded with a heavy heart.

"Yes. It's as you say. What I want to ask of your squad is... Henceforth, if any big names such as the Four Heavenly Kings appear, I want you all to take them on."

"Gladly."

"Damn woman, wait one second! Snow, since when did you become the commander?"

After I put a halt to this girl who was way too happy and excited,

"You fool, there aren't many missions as honorable as this! They are saying that the task of fighting against the enemy generals is only possible for us. In other words, this means that they acknowledge our skills and prowess. And this is obvious, but we can raise our achievements the most through accomplishing this mission. If we do that, then we can have any reward or promotion we

want!"

This girl... If she's this blinded by her greed, then she'll say nothing but admirable things about this.

As I was thinking about what words to use to persuade Snow, the advisor started speaking with a very grandiose gesture.

"It's as Snow-dono says. No. 6-dono has already fought with powerful beings such as Heine of the Flame, Gadalkand of the Earth, even Gil of Power and Rista of Knowledge. You are the hero of our nation. If you say that you can't face the Demon King's Army, then who else could possibly be able to put up a fight against their generals...?"

After his speech, the old man exhaled deeply.

As I saw his speech mixed with some theatrics, a light bulb turned on in my head.

"... Hey, old man... Out of curiosity, was it you that proposed this to the General?"

"Oi No. 6, don't call him an old man! This man is the acting voice of the General..."

The General, and not the old man, stopped Snow from continuing to criticize me and replied.

"That's right. It's because this advisor evaluates you highly. He said that excluding Hero-dono, only you, No. 6-dono could go toe to toe with a general from of the Demon King's Army..."

"Hmmm"

It does please me to be complimented, but the old man's forced laughter is concerning.

I've seen this happen many times when I was in Kisaragi. When higher ups are protecting their own sweet interests.

This old man is giving off the same vibe as those people.

While I was raising my guard, the advisor...

"No. 6-dono. You are a hero and we wish to borrow your strength. If you say you are lacking in subordinates, then unlike the girl with demon blood and the heathen believer, we can add proper knights to your ranks. If that's still not enough, instead of a squad, it'll be fine for you to lead even a company... How about it? Can we leave it to you?"

TN: If this wasn't obvious, I don't mean company in a business sense. In this case, it pretty much means a bigger unit that is made up of several squads.

After he said all that, he bowed his slowly-balding head.

— — And then, after a couple of days.

"Do you lot understand!? We've received the greatest honor in being trusted with this mission! Failure will not be forgiven! Everyone, fight with everything you have!"

"Oi, why are you leading them?"

A group of knights were proudly lined up on top of a hill some distance away from the castle.

Our squad was placed in the middle of the group of knights.

Currently, it seems like the troops of the Demon King's Army have made it to a close location from here.

Although their number isn't large, it was reported that Heine of the Flame was with them.

Since it seems like we will battle Heine, of course....

"One of the Four Heavenly Kings, Heine! I will be the one to take her head!"

That's right, it was our squad's responsibility.

"No. 6, do something about this overly excited girl. She was already normally oppressive, but it's particularly annoying today. "

While Snow was more energetic than ever... I didn't know if it was just my imagination, but the emotionless Alice looked exhausted.

"Just let her be. Words are wasted on her. You guys, even if you encounter any enemies, it's alright to just take it easy. It'd be stupid of you to get injured

during this kind of mission."

Snow heard me and glared daggers at me. The vein in her forehead was bulging while she went off on me.

"You bastard, what do you think you're saying!? The general and the advisor entrusted us with this special mission."

"I don't like that advisor guy. He's like someone that only cares about himself. He reeks of a shameless coward."

Snow had a dumbfounded look while she was grabbing onto my collar.

"You, you're.... I don't want to say it, but have you ever looked at yourself objectively?"

"Oi No. 6, do you know of a tool known as a mirror? It can light up and reflect the face of the one looking at it."

"Commander, do you know a tool called a boomerang?"

...Not only that old man, I hate you all as well.

While I was being roasted, Snow put her hands on her waist,

"Anyway! If you don't have the will, I won't tell you to overexert yourself! At least this time, I won't be a hindrance like the last time we fought her!"

Seems like she's still hung up over the fact that last time, she couldn't do anything and ran away from Heine of the Flame.

"Hmph. No. 6, what's with that look? Heh, do you notice anything different from usual today? I've prepared a perfect countermeasure for Heine of the Flame. Look at this!"

As she said that, Snow showed off the hilt of a blue sword.

As it was causing a chill, the sword was emitting white smoke similar to how dry ice would.

"The Freezing Sword, Iceberg! I got my hands on it by taking out a 3-year loan. It's my new sword for going up against Heine of the Flame. Grimm, you have to be useful this time! Hey, wake up!"

I don't know if it was because she really wanted to try out her new sword, but

Snow was very excited while she started shaking around Grim, who was sleeping listlessly in her small wheelchair.

"— — By the way Alice, what do you think of this?"

"What do I think... About this mission being a front for throwing us away?"

As I was watching the Demon King's Army appearing from afar on top of the hill, "You knew? That's right, that old man pretty much forced us to take this suicidal mission. I didn't do anything to him that would make him hate me other than almost making him cry when I was railing on him for losing all the time."

"I think that reason is enough for him to hate you. Well, the other possibility is that we're just an eyesore. From the start, this squad... It was the kind of division filled with people for the purpose of getting rid of them. But looking past our means and ways and just looking at our achievements alone, there's a huge gap. Furthermore, this squad has the kind of people that were always shunned. Of course, he wouldn't like us."

What's going on... You're saying that even right now, the me who's always right is still being shunned for my ways?

...But now that I think about it, that old man seemed to look down on Rose and Grimm as well.

"Stop sleeping, and get up! Oi, Gri— Ahhh!"

"Ah."

Rose and Snow were making a ruckus over there. Just what are they doing?

"Anyway, if we see the other side's general, we'll just pretend to fight and pull out. Oh, and since my shotgun was just waxed, I didn't bring it with me today."

"Bring your weapon. Your weapon. If your shotgun breaks down, I'll just get you a new one. Well, it should be fine. It seems that words have some effect on that busty onee-san."

As I was saying that,

(Snow, Grimm fell over so awkwardly. Her ne-, neck is...)

(Wha-, what should we... For now, just put her back in her wheelchair! I feel

like... I think I saw her eyes roll back...) By the wheelchair, below these two that were flustered and whispering...

"Oi Snow, wake Grimm up.... By the way, what are you two doing carrying Grimm?"

"It's nothing!"

"Nothing!"

When Snow and Rose were responding, Grimm, while still being carried, became shocked and started trembling.

"...? Then, let's slowly head out as well since it seems like the main force is heading out too."

— — In front of us was the imposing Demon King's Army.

In the middle of the large army's formation of various demons,

There stood a generously exposed, brown-skinned busty lady wearing a daring smile.

Next to her was the griffin we saw before, and....

"...Hey, it's not just Heine and the griffin, but there's something huge over there. Just what is that?"

"...That... That's called a golem. It's made of sturdy rocks and it's a puppet with its movements controlled by magic."

The one, that Snow was explaining about in an unsettling state, was easily over two meters tall while looking like it was made from some heavy rocks. It was a doll-looking weapon that definitely weighed at least a ton.

Standing over there was a thing that would dwarf one of the Demon King's Army's Four Heavenly Kings, Gadalkand of the Earth.

"Magic again? It seems like magic can make anything happen. I want to examine the laws of physics of this planet. No. 6, if one of their magicians are wounded and unable to move, capture him and bring him over."

"Uh, I'm also interested about magic, but.... Hey, do you think it's alright to just fight against Heine? Other squads can handle the griffin and that golem

right?"

As if they heard the conversation between Alice and me, the commanders waiting nearby shouted, "No. 6-dono! Please leave the group of high orcs surrounding Heine of the Flame to us!"

"Then our squad will take care of the powerful troop of ogres. They might be a little too formidable, but leave it to us!"

"Fine, then for our quick-footed squad, we'll go around to suppress their archers!"

The squads around us were quick to act.

"Even in this nation, I'm still left with the dangerous missions! Snow, wake Grimm up! Since it's down to us, we're going to hit Heine with a really strong curse!"

"Get someone else to wake up Grimm! I'm going to get revenge for the last incident by using my freezing sword on that woman!"

As she said that, the muscle brain who wouldn't listen, dashed towards Heine.

"Um, Commander! Is it alright to take the griffin as my opponent? I'm curious how griffin meat will taste like. I want to eat a lot of its meat and be able to soar through the skies! It's all for honoring my grandpa's will!"

There's another muscle brain right here!

After seeing off Snow, and then Rose, I turned towards Alice.

"Leave waking up Grimm to me. Then that means you're left with..."

As if reacting to Alice's words, and matching the the initiatives of our side, the golem let out a rock-shattering sound.

Part 2

"One of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King's Army, Heine of the Flame! My name is Snow! I'll return the favor from last time! Become rust on one of my blades, the Freezing Sword Iceberg!"

"Come at me, the one called Snow! One of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King's Army, Heine of the Flame will be your opponent!"

The battle finally started in the center of the hill where we've established our positions.

A little further out from where Heine and Snow were confronting each other in style, "There's no effect! I thought as much, but it's really impossible with just a pistol! Alice, hurry! Hurry up and wake Grimm!"

It looked like it'd be slow, judging from its appearance. But the golem was approaching me with surprising speed after I attacked it.

"Hey No. 6, she's not asleep, she fainted. Looking at her state, she's not going to be awake for a while."

"Why is she always dead or unconscious right before the fight starts!? She still hasn't been useful, not even once! Why does this keep happening!?"

It might have not been a mistake to have Grimm be sent to the troops made up of troublesome scraps.

"There's no helping it. Hey No. 6, stall for some time. I'll send a request for C4!"

"Please hurry!"

As I shouted back at Alice, I raised the strength parameter of my Kisaragi-manufactured battle suit to the highest.

As I looked around for some help, from afar, I saw Snow dodge a fireball from Heine as she slowly closed the gap between them.

"Pikyaaaaa!"

I turned to the sound of the sharp cry. The griffin was in midair, caught in

both hands by Rose while she was taking a bite out of its neck.

Both sides looked busy, it seemed like neither of them could provide me backup.

Then that just leaves me with...

"Alright, I've transmitted the teleportation request! Hang on for a little longer, No. 6!"

With the sound of heavy steps, the golem stopped in front of me.

Behind me was Grimm, who was lying around with her eyes rolled back, and Alice, who was without any weapons.

This was a situation that I'd normally run away from, but I started to feel a fire light inside me for the first time in a long time.

I've fought in many fierce battles against all kinds of heroes, and still, I survived. I'm the best, No. 6-sama!

"Come at me, fool! I'll show you the strength of the Kisaragi battle suit."

While my body was overflowing with my raging emotions, I roared and struck with all my strength.

".....Owwwww! Alice, my hand's definitely broken! It's broken! Broken, I say!"

The golem's chest, that I struck with my first, just barely had a crack in it.

My will to fight was gone in only two seconds.

"If it's actually broken, you wouldn't have the time to be shouting it's broken. Therefore, you didn't break anything yet."

"That's strange. Your logic is definitely off! You're as weird as the one who made you, Lillith-sama!"

While I was cursing at Alice, I slipped past the golem's outstretched arm, and this time I tried to kick its back.

Without breaking its posture, the golem just turned around and started coming at me with its two arms out.

The golem and I began to fight with our arms. In order to buy a little more time, I went with a contest of strength.

"Alice, doesn't it somehow feel like the teleportation is taking longer than usual!? What's going on—!?"

Following my shout, Alice put her fist in her hand as if realizing,

"Oh, going by my internal clock, the time over there should be 3:14 PM. It's tea time right now. Just last a little longer."

"God damn it!!"

While I was screaming, one of my legs got stuck in the ground.

To think I can't win with my battle suit's power, how did they even make such a golem?

Wasn't this supposed to be a savage world with a civilization lacking behind Earth's?

I wonder if it was my time to shine going forward.

More than anything, the thing I want to say the most is that just because it's an evil organization, you don't give out any vacation time!

Determining that I'd be crushed at this rate, while resisting with all my might, I yelled at the top of my lungs "Limiter release— — —!"

Hearing my shout, Alice immediately denounced it.

"Are you an idiot? Cancel it immediately! The golem isn't the only enemy. You can die from being burned by the female general while you're defenseless during the cooldown period!"

Simultaneously, I heard Alice's voice and the familiar narration in my head.

I ignored Alice's warning and responded to the narration.

"It's fine! Hurry, hurry it up!"

"I already know that! I'm fine with everything, hurry it up!"

"Aahhhhhh, just do it now! I'm going to be crushed ahhhhh—!"

While I was crying out, just before I was about to become as flat as a pancake.

Something fell from the sky and collided with the golem. Although it happened quickly, I promptly regained my footing.

Shortly after, from where the small thing fell from, the griffin also fell while smelling like burnt meat.

She probably breathed fire on the griffin while hanging from it in midair.

While the griffin was writhing in pain, Rose, who fell from quite a distance, stood up without any problems at all.

"C-Commander, that thing tastes terrible. I can't eat that even if it does give me the ability to fly. Maybe it was disgusting because it was raw!"

You've already had a taste?

— — At that moment.

The narration that I was waiting for went off in my head.

"Aaaah!"

From lifting the battle suit's original power, I pushed back the golem that was pressing down on me.

"Uh... Just... C-Commander..."

From witnessing the scene of the heavy golem being slowly raised, Rose stiffened and held her breath.

"It came, No. 6! The C4! I'll stick it to the golem, so just wait a little!"

While the golem was flailing its legs from being picked up by me, Alice stuck the plastic explosive known as C4 on it.

"Wha-, what is that? Is that clay?"

While Rose was asking questions, Alice confirmed that the explosive was stuck, "Uryahhhhhhhh!"

As I roared, I threw the golem with all my strength.

"That's an explosive from our nation. Even though it's small, it packs quite a punch."

"There are explosion users, but what do you mean by explosive!?"

While the golem was upside down after it was thrown, I quickly widened the distance between us.

Alice was watching everything unfold while having the trigger in her hand.

"Don't worry. This explosive won't go off even if it was lit on fire."

"Then how will you make it explode?"

As if responding to Rose's question, Alice pressed on the trigger's button.

"Like this."

The incapacitated golem blew into pieces with a boom.

"— — It hurts, it hurts, the pieces of the golem are hitting my face! Oi Alice, don't use me as a shield!"

Since a minute has passed, I couldn't move because of the cooldown. During that time, Alice was using me as a shield to avoid getting hit by all the pieces flying around.

"A-amazing..."

As I was thinking about what I was going to do later to this cold-hearted piece of junk, Rose, even though her face was getting hit by all the pieces, looked with a stunned expression where the golem exploded into scraps.

"Ugh... Please wake me up in a more gentle way... It feels like you're treating me harsher and harsher each time..."

It seemed like Grimm finally opened her eyes because of all the pieces of the golem flying around.

"Are you awake now, Grimm? Oi you guys, because of my own small circumstances, I won't be able to move around for a little bit. I'm sorry, but hold off the enemies on your own for three minutes. Well, the small fries are being taken care of by the other squads, Heine is fighting Snow, and the Griffin was taken care of by Rose..."

"I think Heine is heading over here. And the griffin is up and obviously eyeing us as enemies."

.....

"...C-Commander, after this fight, I want to eat something delicious."

"I don't know what's really going on because I was asleep, but I want to drink some nice alcohol."

"Damn, to think you're taking advantage of me right now! Fine, I'll buy however much you want, so please help me! But Grimm, I'm going to have a word with you later!"

Part 3

"Hey, No. 6! So we meet again!"

With her burning red eyes glittering, Heine appeared in front of me while I was being defended by Rose.

It seems like Heine didn't realize that I'm not able to move because of the battle suit's cooldown.

"It's been a while, Heine of the Flame. For some reason, it seems like it's a lot tenser than last time. It's good that you look well."

I was trying to buy a little more time by casually talking to her.

"Yup, it's pretty tense! Since we're on the battlefield, let's go another round, No. 6! We were interrupted last time, but today, let's enjoy it to the end!"

Just when we started having a conversation, Heine declared the start of a battle while forming a fireball in her hand...!

"W-wait, Heine! Let's talk first! Anyways, I have something I've wanted to ask you for a while!"

From those words, Heine's movements have stopped.

Even if it's just a little, I have to buy more time!

"Something you want to ask? What is it, ask away."

"What do you have to eat to grow those kind of boobs?"

Rose quickly knocked away the fireball that Heine silently threw.

"Commander, I've always thought this, but you occasionally seem like an idiot. Just what were you thinking? Or were you not thinking at all?"

This kid's pretty good at being cruel.

"Oh? You seem pretty capable being able to knock away my fireball with your bare hands. Honestly, the female knight from before was a little disappointing, but it looks like I'll be able to have some fun with you."

Even though her fireball was blocked, Heine, for some reason, looked happy

while being in awe of Rose, who blocked the flames.

Alright, now's the time to buy some time again by starting another conversation... Or so I thought, until...

Snow ran over this way while crying out.

"Uwahhhhhhhh! No. 6! No. 6—! The Freezing Sword! It hasn't even been that long since I bought the Freezing Sword, but this girl melted it! You had an especially nice tool, use it to return the favor to Iceberg's enemy!"

Hey you idiot, stop it.

"You mean that weird weapon!? Great, come at me, No. 6! Even without telling me, I know that you were the one who took the treasure from Duster Tower. Hah, just as I thought, you're pretty capable for a human! Now, let's start killing each other!"

It's rare for me to receive any goodwill from women, but this doesn't make me the least bit happy!

Heine fired a fireball once again, and Rose knocked it away again.

"Oi No. 6, she's Iceberg's enemy! Even though I still have payments to make on the loan, she melted it when it was the first time I've ever used it! I waited in a long line, and just barely got my hands on the Freezing Sword! I was so happy that I would even hug the Freezing Sword when I sleep..."

Begging her to stop saying anymore unnecessary stuff, I looked at Snow in a desperate plea.

"...Hey, No. 6. Why are you still being protected by that girl? I don't know too much, but could it be that you can't actually move right now?"

Heine perfectly got the gist of it.

"— —Griffin, go draw out the girl near No. 6. When you do, I'll burn him."

"Fuckin' Snow, you useless fool! You idiot! Just wait and see what'll happen to you later-!"

"Wha-what did you call me? Anyway, why can't you move!? Damn it, my Freezing Sword melted, and I can't get close because of the heat..."

This idiot, if that was the case, why'd she even come here!

While Snow was in a panic because she didn't know about my situation, the griffin charged at us.

Rose, who was in the front, drew a huge breath and,

"Sink in the sea of hellfire residing in my body...! Sleep for all eternity, Crimson Breath!"

As she deliberately shouted her lines, she spat fire onto the charging griffin.

"Damn, in the end, it seems like it's in a bad mismatch against that girl. Fine then, I'll show you a specially-sized one that you won't be able to block!"

As if angry at the griffin that lost the will to fight after seeing the flames, Heine raised both her hands and it felt like the gathered flames were slowly getting hotter.

"Hey Rose, do you really need to say those lines before!? Do you really need them!?"

"I really don't want to say them! It's my grandpa's will, I can't do anything about it!"

While Rose and I were bickering, Heine's flames turned from a reddish color to a more hotter blue...!

Ahhh, has it still not been three minutes yet? Is it for sure that it didn't just pass by?

"Rose, you're someone who can do it if you try! You can handle something like this right? "

"C-Commander, I've developed a resistance to fire from constantly eating fire lizards, so I won't be wounded, but the problem is.."

I asked a question anxiously to Rose, who looked a little desperate.

"What, what is it?"

"It'd be a little troublesome if my clothes were burned off in front of the eyes of the public! Also, I only have these clothes..."

"I'll buy you some clothes, so—!"

Rose picked me up as if she was going to carry me away.

"But as a girl, I'm not ready to accept that...! ... By the way Commander, why, why are you so heavy? Ughhh, I have the strength of the unicorn goblin I've eaten, but you're not budging an inch!"

"You can't move me because this battle suit is heavy! Just a little more until the cooling restores the power. Do whatever you have to do to protect me until then!"

While ignoring our worries, Heine's flame turned from blue to white.

"No. 6, I hope you're ready! I acknowledge you this much, so I'll send you off in one blow."

"Ah! She just said something that should never be said, according to the Manual of Evil Dialogues! Rose, we'll be able to avoid this crisis somehow!"

That's right, after noticing my praiseworthy and pitiable self being in a crisis, a cool hero will definitely show up gallantly now...

While I was escaping from reality, Rose was still trying to somehow move me.

"Commander, please come back to reality! At this rate.. It seems like I won't be able to get married from having to put on a nude show in front of everyone, so is it alright for me to run away?"

"Please, if that happens, I'll gladly take responsibility, so please don't leave me—"

It was at that moment.

"Great Zenalith-sama, bring forth disaster to this woman! Become paralyzed!"

Just like what was said, Heine, who was about to throw the fireball, stopped moving as if she turned into stone.

"Ugh!? What, what is this stupid... Is this a curse?"

Heine let out an embarrassed voice with a surprised expression. While I was also immobile, I sent my thanks to my rescuer.

"I'm alive, Grimm! I feel like this was the first time you've ever contributed!"

"That's right, that's right. Commander should now know the power of

Zenalith-sama... Wait a second, what did you think of me until now?"

As she said that, the long-awaited narration finally arrived inside my head.

"It's fine now, Rose. You can leave me now."

As I whispered those words to her, Rose and the griffin began eyeing each other as if they were rivals.

After witnessing that, as if she was liberated from the paralysis, Heine hunched her shoulders like she was devastated. She started complaining in a somewhat desperate tone.

"This is a difficult situation... In the first place, today's main mission was to test the ability of the golem... If you could ruin the plan, then it means that something's not going right... Hey No. 6. Do you really not want to join the Demon King's Army? What do you desire? Maybe, I can grant most of your wishes."

"Everyone, make haste and plug No. 6's ears! If not, get rid of that dangerous woman as soon as possible!"

Alice shouted out orders to cut off Heine's words.

"Commander, please have a word with me. Never lend an ear to the enemy."

"C-Commander, stop thinking about her, and let's go on a date night again!"

While they hastily pulled out those words, the two subordinates were approaching me to block my ears.

It was at that time when the instincts that I've honed over many battlefields, alerted me of danger.

"Hwahhhh!"

I tumbled forward practically through reflexes alone. I barely dodged the lethal blow.

I hurriedly looked back, and saw the sight of Snow drawing a dagger.

"What! You bastard, weren't you supposed to be unable to move! What's going on, why are you able to move!?"

"Right back at you, what's going on!? Did you go crazy!? At least cut me down

when I actually betray you. What's with you all? Did you think I'd say 'Yes, right away~' and go over to the Demon King's Army!?"

This is really ridiculous!

Who do they think I am....

"First of all, I'll triple your current salary. Then... Hey No. 6, have you ever heard of a demon called a succubus?"

"Yes, I have heard of it."

"Hey No. 6, stop sitting so straight while listening! Stop speaking so formally with the enemy! Stop listening so carefully and pull out your gun!"

Alice was speaking rapidly in a rare, nervous manner.

"God, just how much do you all not trust me? It's unfort-, unfortunate, Heine of the Flame. I'm not a man that can be easily bought over by money or women..."

While I was saying that, I stretched out my hand to the gun hanging from my waist. Then, Heine reached out her right hand while smiling.

"Now, No. 6, grab my hand. I'll have any women you desire attend to you. A curvy succubus with a glamorous body, although a little childish, will spoil you in many ways. A vampire gifted with devilish beauty. A siren that will whisper in your ears with a sweet, soothing voice."

"Hey Grimm, silence her with your curses! No. 6 can't handle any more of her charming magic."

"Huh? This is charming magic? But, I don't feel any magic being used.... Ugh."

[...Alice, I'm sorry.... I think I'm at my limit...]

[Hey No. 6, come back to your senses! And it's starting to feel real so stop talking in Japanese!]

In the middle of Alice's urgent shout, a white shadow squeezed between Heine and me.

"Haaaah!!"

Snow, who was carefully observing the situation, attacked with a dagger from

below where Heine's arm reached out to me.

Because she was reaching out to me, Heine extinguished the fireball in her hand.

This was probably because Snow saw this as the perfect opportunity.

While the flash of silver passed by with a shout full of vigour, Heine withdrew her hand and something fell off her bracelet.

The thing that fell off radiated a red light towards the sky.

"Ah! The magic stone!"

Heine didn't even pay attention to Snow who was running right in front of her. Instead, her eyes were following the gem that went flying in the air.

In the end, the gem was caught by Alice.

"...Ooh, and what's this? Judging from your reaction, I think it's something quite valuable."

"No, no! It's not even that valuable..."

While Heine was saying such things, her eyes were glued to Alice's hand.

I stood next to Alice and thoroughly looked over the gem.

"So it's nothing important huh. Then, I'll take this as my spoils of war."

"That's right. Since we're enemies, there's no need to return it. Even more so since it's nothing valuable."

"W-wait! So... That's, that's a valuable..."

Heine was a little hesitant to say something while Alice and I were talking.

"That's a magic stone. Magicians use a catalyst when they cast magic. Usually, a catalyst is a staff, ring, or something like a bracelet, it seems like that woman used that rock as a catalyst. I feel some amazing mana from that rock. It must have been made by having mana repeatedly poured into it over a long period of time."

Grimm was looking at the rock that Alice held from the bottom. While she was admiring the quality, she was explaining about it.

"...If Heine doesn't have this, what happens to her?"

"She won't be able to use magic. She can use something else as a catalyst, but she won't be able to use power befitting one of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King's Army."

After Alice and I shared a look, we turned around to Heine.

"... Eeek! What's with that face? Hey, No. 6? You're going to bring that rock and join the Demon King's Army, right? Right? You're going to do that, right?"

Although Heine was almost in tears while talking as if she had a breakdown..

""Ugh....""

The three members that saw our expression, all let out a disgusted voice.

Part 4

The sound of battle within our vicinity was dying out.

This was because that both demons and soldiers couldn't take their eyes off the demon general's surprise event.

That event was....

"Cheeeese~~! Look up a little and lean forward with your chest and emphasize that cleavage! Oh, extra points for looking like you're about to cry!"

I was in the middle of pressing the button on my digital camera, while listening to the sound of someone busily crying for a while.

"...I want to die..."

Heine was following my instructions while glaring daggers at me. She was making suggestive poses while suffering from the gazes of all the onlookers.

"Great, next put your hands behind you. Then, spread your legs and lean your back backwards. Hey, move those hands! Hands behind your back! Oooh, that rebellious look is pretty good! I think some of the fanatics will offer a high price for that while jumping in joy!"

"Sniff....sniff.... uuuh...!"

Heine finally broke down into tears. Rose started mumbling while looking from a distance.

"This, this is too sad..."

An announcement could be heard in my brain each time I pressed on the digital camera's button.

Each time I heard that voice, Alice was happily nodding her head while checking the point total on a terminal.

"Good job No. 6, let's go for a little more! Corner her a little more! Fuhahahaha, I can't help myself when watching the sight of a formidable enemy being degraded! Heh...! Look, look at her, No. 6! The crying face of Heine, who used to proudly boast of her strength...!"

Snow was next to me embracing herself while saying such words. She was even shaking a little.

"You're the enemy of my sword. Continue to be ridiculed in that state! Fuhahahaha! Fuhahahaha!"

To think that she's not just someone obsessed with money and success, she also finds joy in seeing people fall into despair. Is there no limit to her depravity?

Well, I'll take care of this dangerous girl later. First comes Heine, who's right in front of me.

"Great. Next, with that crying face... Try smiling while putting up double peace signs! ... Good, good. Let's slowly go to the next stage... Hmm, that's right. Your clothes are getting in the way."

"Eeeeeek!"

While watching Heine tremble from not knowing what further orders awaited her, Rose cautiously approached me.

"C-Commander, even if she's the enemy general, this is just too sad... Shouldn't you return the rock now? If Heine-san can use magic again, then we can fight fairly again."

In response to Rose's words.

"Alice, Alice, did you hear me say that I'll return the rock if she did everything I say?"

"No, I don't think so? You definitely said something like, 'Al~right~, then first, can you use both hands to press down on your boobs and look up towards me?' You never promised that you'd return the rock if she listened to everything you say. She misunderstood on her own and just followed whatever you said."

"This, this is way too overboard...!"

From hearing our conversation, Heine stood up as if she was about to run over.

"This is so wrong after making me do this much! I'm going to kill you! I'm definitely going to kill you!"

"Oh? When you're in a state where you can't use magic, if you can kill me, then hurry up and kill me. Do it, do it now!"

"Ugh, uuuugh!"

Heine looked furious and full of resentment. With tears in her eyes, she glared at me while grinding her teeth.

"Guess I have no choice. Do you really want it back that badly?"

"A-are you returning it? Please, that's a very valuable..., wha-wha-wha, what are you doing!? Just what are you doing?"

I put my hands on the battle suit's zipper and started rummaging around.

The zipped part of the battle suit that was hard to put on and take off, was made to be very convenient just in case sudden situations arise.

I stored Heine's precious item together with my own most precious thing. I, being a gentleman, crossed my arms and made a bridge pose using only my head and feet to make it easier for Heine to take it.

"Come on, take it back."

"...No. 6, you bastard, this isn't the eeeend!"

After getting on the griffin, she left while crying.

Part 5

In a small tavern inside the town, the sound of mugs hitting each other could be heard.

""""Cheers!""""

After the battle, I took my squad members out for some fun.

"Anyway, this is a huge achievement, No. 6! We destroyed that gigantic golem. Although your methods were a little... You weakened one of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King's Army and made her retreat. Did you see the Demon King's Army retreat after losing their commander? Didn't this victory only happen because of our squad?"

Snow was talking while humming in between. She was chugging her beer while being in a pleasant mood.

"This time, I feel like I put up a good fight against the Demon King's Army. Before the commander arrived, I was killed every time there was a battle! Great Zenalith-sama, I give my thanks for not waking up at the resurrection temple today!"

While she was taking up a large space in the cramped tavern because of her wheelchair, she offered a prayer of gratitude.

"Deeleeeshous... It's sooo tasttty...! Seeence the comandah came, I'm shooo happy I caan eat a lot of deelishous things!"

TN: Delicious.. It's so tasty..! Ever since you became my commander, I'm so happy I can eat a lot of delicious things!

Sitting besides her was Rose, who preferred the food over the drinks. She had tears in her eyes while eating as if she had two stomachs.

"That's right, that's right, praise me a little more! ... Anyway, what if... Isn't it likely that rumours of us will eventually go around the citizens of this kingdom? Oi, oi, what should I do if some people down the street ask for autographs?"

As soon as I happily took a drink from my beer, Snow, who was gulping down

her beer, spoke.

"Well, the excellent me is here; the youngest ever to be made a knight. That will definitely happen. I'll continue stacking up achievements like this, and I'll make my return as the leader of the knights again!"

I was about to mention that she was usually pretty useless, but something else caught my interest.

"You said you were the youngest ever to be made a knight, just how many years ago was that? Another thing, how old are you right now?"

"Hm, My age? I'm seventeen. I was about 12 when I was made a knight."

Snow had a calm face while responding to my question. While she slowly raised her mug to take another sip..., "Stop joking around, you look much older! Weren't you older than me!? I definitely thought you were older than me with that body and arrogant attitude."

"Pfffffffffffhhhh!"

Snow spat out her beer because of my remarks.

"Kyaa— my eyes, My eyes!"

Because of getting beer in her eyes, Grimm fell from her wheelchair and was thrashing around in the ground.

As if she was choking a little, Snow had a crying face while wiping her mouth.

"You bastard, I may be a knight, but I'm also a woman! How dare you say that I look old!?"

"You're so noisy for someone younger than me! You're below me in both age and rank, how dare you speak to me like that!"

After sitting down on my chair while acting big, I threw some coins at Snow.

"Hey you, go buy me some bread."

"As if I'll go. Leave that to the employees! ... Really, if you're older than me, then how about you act a little more properly. Be a little more self-aware of the fact that you're a commander..."

From Snow's words of dissatisfaction, Rose's eyes lit up while her hands

stopped moving.

"Finally, Snow-san has acknowledged the Commander as the Commander!"

"No, no! I was only explaining the resolve and responsibility of a commander...!"

"Someone, get me a towel!"

Even our annoying ruckus couldn't compare to the boisterous atmosphere of the bar.

Even the citizens of this country heard the news of our victory so everyone was getting drunk to celebrate this feat.

Being caught up in the magnificent mood tonight, we were enjoying this one-time party.

"— —Hooo. Now that I think about it, why didn't Alice come out tonight?"

Grimm asked me that while her face was tinged with red from who knows how many beers she's had.

It's not like I can say that she's an android that can't eat food...

"Well you see, about Alice... There's no way that it's proper upbringing for a child to be at a tavern this late at night. I returned her to my room first."

As if she was a little in awe from what she's heard, she took a couple more swigs from her beer and opened her mouth.

"I don't think you can talk about upbringings and whatnot after bringing her to the battlefield... That child, although she's pretty foul-mouthed, I think she has a terrifying amount of talent. How should I say it. Her intelligence is on another level. The other day, I heard an unbelievable rumor that she read all of the books stored in the castle's library."

"I saw Alice-san negotiating all kinds of things with the merchants in the marketplace before."

"Gulp, gulp... Puah-! I saw Alice taking some stuff to the healers' station before! "

It seems like she's been keeping herself busy going to places without me

knowing.

"A merchant, and a healer? Oi No. 6, I heard that the latest weapons and items are of the highest quality. Merchants say they look quite powerful, and I also heard that various new medicines are being released for sale... Do you think this is related to Alice?"

"I don't know."

Although I said I didn't know, it's without a doubt related to Alice.

Snow was looking at me suspiciously while licking the last droplets of alcohol in her cup.

"...Hmmm. Well, I don't really care what you guys do with your new products. Right now, Alice and you are both members that our squad can't do without. But, don't misunderstand. I still haven't acknowledged you!"

"Look Rose, this is what you call a tsundere. Even though she's saying those kind of things, she's already in love with me and can't really hold it in."

"Heh-! So when Snow-san defies the commander, it's because she's trying to cover up her feelings of love! I've learned something new today!"

"Don't start with me, I'll beat and slash you! From the start, I should've done it the first time I met you..."

"The pretty-boy over there, another round—!"

Time sure flies when you're having fun.

Tonight was the first time since coming to this world, when it felt like time went by too fast.

Part 6

— — The completely plastered No. 6 was leaning on my shoulder while being dragged out against his will.

The rest of the comrades that came out with him started to laugh while seeing how red his face was.

"Commander, thank you for the feast! It's been a long time since I could eat this much!"

"Likewise, thanks for the food! Now Rose, hang out with me for a little longer. For some reason, I feel like I can set a new record tonight!"

From Grimm's somewhat dangerous remarks, Rose, while pushing the wheelchair..

"Let's stop~. My belly is completely full and I want to go to sleep~. If you want to go, go by yourself~. Also in my grandpa's will, he wrote not to stay out the whole night~."

"If you don't come, then who will be the witness for my new record! Now, now, let's go show all of the couples prancing around because of today's victory what hell is truly like!"

"Ah— —"

After I saw off Rose, who was being dragged away by Grimm, No. 6 and I started to head towards the castle.

"Fuhahaha, I drank so much!! Oi, wasn't that girl employee pretty cute!? I just touched her ass a little, but she reacted that much! It was refreshing so that was pretty nice!"

As he was saying that, the excited No. 6-... No, he was like a stupid man talking about idiotic things.

"...You, can you be a little more self-aware that you're a knight of this country? The only way to cure your stupidity is probably only death, but since I'm a knight like you, I'm being seen in the same light as you."

"Stooooopid, I was only following the etiquettes of being a combatant! Don't you even know what's written in the manual? If you see a cute waitress, it's a compliment to say, 'Heh, heh, heh, you have such a nice ass, pour me a drink!'"

Maybe it's because he's pretty drunk, but the words coming out of his mouth are stranger than usual.

"Really.... It's not that way, it's this way! Oi, you idiot! Don't try to relieve yourself over there!"

I dragged the stumbling No. 6 to the castle barracks against his will and finally managed to bring him to his room.

"Oh No. 6, are you back? I see you got pretty drunk again. Just how much did this idiot drink?"

As if she was waiting for No. 6's return, as soon as I knocked on the door, Alice immediately came out.

"It was terrible. He was telling them to bring all the drinks out. He kept shouting that he's a very rich man today and started buying rounds for everyone..."

"Well, it's impossible for him to save up on money. There's no helping it because if he has money, he'll spend all of it. Good work bringing him back."

Something feels a little off about being talked to this way by a small child.

This idiot was still going off about being older...

"Hey, Snow-chaaaaan! Good job on your task of escorting your superior back! Come on, give me a goodnight kiss!"

"Don't add 'chan' to my name, you drunken fool! Stop saying stupid things, and hurry up and go to sleep!"

After dropping off the drunkard saying useless things, I hurriedly went to my room.

Jeez... That guy really did well surviving till now.

If I think about it, he was a disrespectful idiot from the first time I met him.

Well now, I can at least acknowledge his skills...

Anyways, what was with him calling me 'Snow-chan'?

"No. 6, you bastard, you're treating me as a fool until the very end... I will definitely cut you down with my own hands one day!"

Well, after fighting in the same squad till now, I understand that I can't do such a thing anymore.

At first, I didn't really want to acknowledge him. But that man is above me in....

"Hooh, to say that you're going to cut down No. 6-dono. That's something I cannot overlook."

After being startled by the unexpected voice, I turned around and...

"Advisor...."

There stood a man wearing a hat to disguise his thinning hair. He also had a scar over one eye.

"N-no, advisor-dono, that was just.... I didn't actually mean No. 6 specifically..."

Well, I'm always saying that I'm going to cut or kill him in front of everyone, so there was really no need to be so suddenly flustered...

When I was about to continue my explanation, the advisor raised his hand out to stop me.

"It's alright, it's alright. I understand what you're feeling. A disrespectful man that you don't know suddenly shows up and committed that idiotic act. Somehow, that responsibility fell to you and you were demoted whereas that man suddenly became appointed as a commander. And he started to achieve many things using underhanded methods one after another. There's no way you wouldn't hold a grudge after all that."

The advisor started nodding his head while claiming to understand on his own.

I mean, I do have a grudge...

But, I only really empathize with the part about him being disrespectful.

"It's as you say! That man is an idiot. He's disrespectful. He doesn't have any dignity and always makes me mad..... It's as if his purpose to live is to humiliate people!"

Maybe because I'm not very good with alcohol, but under its influence, I yelled out my usual frustrations.

"I know exactly what you're feeling! Every chance he gets, he calls me an old man... Ah, I really get along with Snow-dono!"

As he was saying that, the advisor came next to me and put his hand on my shoulder.

What does he mean 'get along'? The audacity..

I still clearly remember him belittling me because of my birthplace during my time as a lower-ranked knight.

While having these thoughts, let's just act fine while being conscious of the fact that his hand is on my shoulder.

"Hm, Snow-dono, your recent achievements can justify a return to your original position. What do you think? Don't you want to return to the royal guards?"

"I-if I can return, I want to go back!"

Being born as an orphan in the slums, just how much did I go through to get to that spot?

Suffering from envy because of the difference in status.. I can't count how many times I've been ridiculed.

Anyways, I can go back to being a commander!

... But what should I do about the squad I'm currently in?

Wait, if I think about it. I didn't achieve those things on my own, it was the squad's achievements.

Then I can just transfer the squad members over to my group of knights.

It will be my squad. Grimm and Rose will, of course, be treated as equals.

And since Alice is very smart, I should have her plan all the military

operations.

...It's just that she comes with an idiot.

He's foul-mouthed, stupid, and even his personality is terrible. But in terms of just fighting, he's above me.

Well since I can't leave him out, I'll put him in as well!

— — I don't know what kind of facial expression I had at that moment.

But the advisor, upon seeing my expression, nodded his head in satisfaction.

His hand that was on my shoulder for a while was bothering me, but it'd be even more troubling if he got offended from me pointing it out.

This displeasure... Someday, I'm going to...

"Mhm, I see that Snow-dono is happy about this as well. Of course you would, since you're working with the likes of a mysterious girl with demon blood, and someone that worships an evil god. I certainly understand."

The veins in my temple started pulsing because of what he said, but I barely managed to calm myself.

This is why that guy keeps going off about me being quick to anger.

"By the way... Snow-dono, regarding No. 6-dono.. When you were granted an audience, you said something like this to his majesty.. That 'this man is a spy from a foreign nation.'"

Now that I think about it, I do remember saying something like that around the time when we first met.

"No, that was my misunderstanding. I don't think that he has the talent to execute the mission of a spy. But it that was the case.. If he finds himself comfortable here, then he's someone who will abandon his mission and possibly even settle down in the country."

Mhm, there's no way an idiot like him could execute a difficult mission of a spy.

More importantly, I don't think what I said was enough to dispel his overwhelming amount of suspicion.

...However, the advisor slowly nodded his head.

"Well, we don't know that. That man is collecting many achievements using those kind of methods. If that's the case, we don't even know if he's actually hiding his true nature... You're an intelligent person. And you're also someone who always think about this kingdom. That's why I have a favor to ask of you. Won't you secretly look into No. 6-dono? I want you to find evidence of him being a spy. Regardless of its authenticity— —"

— —As I slowly walked through the halls of the barracks, I let out a sigh while thinking about what the advisor said.

In return for being reinstated into the royal guards, he wants me to find evidence that points to No. 6 being a spy.

By saying that the authenticity doesn't matter, he's just telling me to bring anything that will ruin him.

In a time where the future of the kingdom will be determined, that advisor prioritizes any threats to his success.

'I don't like that advisor guy. He's like someone that only cares about himself. He reeks of a shameless coward.'

I remembered again what No. 6 said about him before.

Although I wanted to tell him to not say such things, I'm now starting to think that he was right.

I let out another sigh, and with my shoulders slumping, I started walking towards No 6's room.

I was carrying a leather bag after being told to bring it to No. 6. It contained a special reward for this time.

"What about this being an excuse to go visit No. 6-dono's room...Ah! Damn, it had to be that idiot. If I visit his room at this time, what kind of stupid things will he say...?"

...There's no helping it. Let's abandon any thoughts of returning to the royal guards.

If I continue to rack up achievements with everyone else, there should come a

time when I am reinstated back to my original spot.

I steadied my mind in front of No. 6's room.

Since it's that man, without a doubt, he'll start off with something sarcastic, then say all kinds of dirty things to humiliate me.

When I took a deep breath and calmed myself as if I was preparing for battle, I began to hear voices from inside the room.

"By the way, what should I do with this great reward? What should I do if the king asks me to marry Tirris and he wants me to rule the kingdom? Is polygamy allowed in this nation?"

Just what kind of delusions is this guy having?

"Is this any of my business? Anyways I think that Tirris is a beautiful girl. Are you not content with one wife?"

"No, it's not like I won't be happy about it. It's just that, my squad only has girls in it. What if the night before Tirris's and my wedding, everyone comes to me and say something like 'I'm actually in love with you commander...'
Wouldn't I be in a pinch if that happened?"

...Really, just really. What kind of thoughts are you having?

"...Since I've acquired quite a lot of knowledge, it's possible for me to anticipate most things, and I've always thought that there wasn't anything I couldn't understand... But I see that I'm not quite at that level yet."

"Is that so? I don't really know too much, but you're someone who can do it if you try. Hang in there."

For some reason, I started to pity Alice for having to take care of him.

"But if I take someone like Snow as a wife, it seems like that would bring a whole nother set of problems, everyday."

Blood started to rush into my head as I heard something that couldn't be ignored.

After deciding to give him a piece of my mind, I reached for the doorknob...!

"... Oh right, we still have to establish a route for the Kisaragi generals. It's

about time for us to get serious in completing this spy mission. Since it seems like we've accomplished something great this time.. With the pay this time, let's get at least one secret base..."

"Hey No. 6, I know you're ecstatic about this, but your voice is too loud. Say those things in Japanese..."

The leather bag, that I received from the advisor, caused a loud noise after being dropped— —

【Interim Report】

For the most parts, the investigation of this planet is complete.

At this point in time, Alice and I will try to secure a base that will be our foothold for the invasion.

Through Alice managing our funds here, it seems like she has acquired a sufficient amount to purchase a base.

Upon finding a base that meets your conditions, I'll notify you immediately.

... Currently, there are no problems with the mission.

—Report by Combatant No. 6

FIFTH
CHAPTER



IN ORDER TO
BECOME A HERO



Chapter 5

Part 1

"— What's the meaning of this?"

Suddenly the door opened, Snow's head was lowered, she was clenching her fists and trembling as she spoke.

"...Spy... What do you mean by that?"

...It seems like I just told the one thing I never wanted to tell anyone to the one person that should never hear about it.

What should I do, how can I get out of this?

Can I get out of this by acting like an idiot?

No, wait... I'm already supposed to be suffering a head injury from a prior battle, so hopefully she'll overlook this.

I'm the victim here! I have to turn the tables!

"You just came in without knocking, did you ever learn any manners? If I was beating my stick, then it would've been a disaster! Or what if you opened the door while I was changing... Were you waiting for that ero-event to happen, Big-Boobs!"

"More importantly, is there really anyone that would take this drunkard seriously? You're going to be deceived by a bad man in the future. So that's why you shouldn't take No. 6..."

Picking up on my intentions, Alice picked up where I left off and continued talking, but after seeing Snow trembling with her head down...

"...Hey, No. 6. This is useless. Give it up."

Is she for real? If we give up here, won't our heads come off our bodies for being spies from another nation?

As I was quietly thinking that I was going to be executed at this rate, I was

going over how I could deceive Snow.

"I won't ask you where you're from. This is the least I can do for all you've done, defending this kingdom."

As she gritted her teeth and clenched her fists,

"Leave this place at once. And don't show yourselves in front of me ever again..."

Snow quietly uttered those words while not even looking at our faces, even once...

"— Yaaay, I get first pick! I like this room! Weeeeeeeeeee! This bed is ridiculously large!"

"Oi, that's cheap, No. 6! Then, I'll seize the second floor bathroom and the first floor bathroom as mine!"

Alice and I rented a small house for our temporary base.

Although it's a small house in the outskirts, it felt good as an evil organization's hidden base.

"Hey, you!! You don't even need a bathroom! Give me the second floor bathroom!"

"Then, I'll give you the bathroom only if you hand over the big room."

Alice and I were exploring the house, and then we started to determine our rooms.

"This room has easy access to visit mine. Alright, this can be Astaroth-sama's room. Let's start putting our names on the doors. If her room is close, I think I can catch a glimpse of Astaroth-sama coming out of the bath."

"...Is that so, well do whatever you want. Come to think of it, No. 6. While you were busy playing a knight, I've pretty much finished investigating this area's useful resources and its ecosystem."

Just as I was wondering what she was doing when I take my eyes off of her... So that's what she was up to.

On another note, I completely forgot that we had that kind of mission.

"This is unexpected. So you really are high-performance?"

"That's a matter of fact. What are you saying after all this time...? To add to that, I made some connections by providing new advanced materials and drugs. I've started to raise funds with the exchange of gifts."

Seriously?

"Alice-san, please give me some allowance money. From spending our money recklessly, and after renting this place, I'm completely broke."

"...Isn't there something wrong with begging an android for money...? Anyways, although we're a bit further back, let's finish the final mission objective."

The final mission that was entrusted to us.

"...That's right... Can we set up the machine for teleportation to Earth in the basement of this house?"

"Mhm, it might take a little time, but if we remodel it into a cleanroom, then it should be enough with the small parts. Then, let's start receiving the parts for installation right away."

For some reason, given the importance of this mission, this seems pretty straightforward.

As soon as the teleportation machine is assembled, combatants from Earth will be sent and the invasion of the kingdom will begin from the inside.

With our strength, even the Demon King's Army probably wouldn't stand a chance.

With Kisaragi's modern weaponry and supplies, this planet will be overrun in no time.

"The mission this time was pretty easy since I didn't have to worry about my survival and there were no bullets flying around. Although there were plenty of fireballs..."

Mhmm, well....

Since it's pretty much the end game, this mission was pretty enjoyable.

"What is it? If you have any concerns, tell me about it. I was made to be your support. I can at least hear you out."

While Alice let out a sigh and lied down on the bed, she turned her head towards me and asked what was wrong.

"...Well it's not really a concern. I'm a combatant of an evil organization. Until now, I've dirtied my hands with all kinds of evil acts. It'd be odd if I couldn't go through with the invasion of this place. Anyways, when I return to Earth, I'm going to go all out drinking beer. I have no lingering attachments to this undeveloped planet that doesn't even use gas and electricity! If I accomplish this, I'll officially be a top general!"

Alice, while lying down, turned her head towards the ceiling. She said to me while I was thinking of my bright future and making a lot of noise,

"Is that so? Then, that's fine. Then No.6, I'll start remodeling the room and assembling the teleportation machine. For one month, make sure not to disturb me and go entertain yourself moderately within the surrounding area ."

...One month?

"Why does it take so long? Assembling it should be finished in no time after turning some screws."

"...You really don't listen, do you? I explained it to you when we first arrived here. Even if the teleportation machine is assembled right away, it'll take about one month for the space we used for teleportation to stabilize."

Now that I think about it, she did mention that.

"...I'm going to be bored out of my mind during that time."

"That's why I told you to go entertain yourself somewhere else so that you don't disturb me... That reminds me, recently it seems like there were observations of strange movements from the Demon King's Army. I think that because the Hero managed to corner a general to a cave, it seems like another general is assembling troops in order to take advantage of him being away from the royal capital. Because of the Hero's absence, their aim is probably to blindside the kingdom."

Where did she get her hands on that information?

Anyways, is that so... The Demon King's Army...!

"Serves her right! That dumb bitch, she better not regret kicking us out! Well, I guess I was a little in the wrong for being a spy, but I've achieved so much for the kingdom, she could've at least listened to my situation!"

"A spy would've received a death sentence in most nations. Well, by not listening to a word and kicking us out was probably her own way of repaying us. All that aside, in the unlikely event that the Hero loses, this kingdom will be swiftly defeated... Will you still be okay with that?"

Alice's words seemed to carry a deeper meaning as if she realized my true feelings.

"...What, what about it? I'm not a hero so I can't help them."

That's right, I'm a combatant from an evil organization. There are no benefits to be gained from helping people while risking danger. That would go against everything I know.

Well, it's not like it's out of the question if that girl comes crying and begging for help.

Besides, aside from that defiant one, Rose and Grimm are my also my underlings.

Still, that's not enough of a reason for me to help them out.

While I was in conflict...

"Hey No. 6."

My partner that claimed to be high-performance called out to me.

"The invasion that they're seeking... Don't you feel a little guilty if that means the destruction of our allies?"

The android said those words with a grin.

Part 2

"—Threatening movements from the Demon King's Army?"

"Yes, Commander. According to the sentries' report, there seem to be concerns that an attack will come within the next few days."

"...Is that so, good work Rose... Ah, and also you don't have to call me Commander, you can just keep calling me the same way as before."

From those words, Rose burst into an innocent smile.

"...Yes, I understand, Snow-san!"

...If I could be this honest with myself and maybe even a little more flexible, would I have been able to refrain from kicking him out instantly and at least hear his side of the story as well?

Dismissing those self-deprecating thoughts, I called out to the knights.

"Divide up into two sides right now, we'll be conducting a mock battle! The enemies that we will simulate will be the elites of the Demon King's Army!"

All of the knights responded to that order with enthusiasm. The devoted members began the training exercise.

...To think that I'd return to this squad like this...

When I thought of the details that allowed me to return here, my expression unintentionally turned into a scowl.

After that man left, the advisor misunderstood the situation all on his own. While being ecstatic, he reinstated me as the commander of the royal guards.

I didn't chase that man out for this reason.

I'm well aware that I desire money and success more than others, but honestly I couldn't be happy returning here this way.

...Really... This is my own issue but it's so annoying.

As I was thinking that, my expression must have shown frustration.

Rose was looking timid as if she had a hard time bringing up something.

"...Uh, there's another... report for Snow-san..."

"What is it? Is it good news or bad news?"

I don't want to hear any more bad news....

"Uh, I'm not sure which it is... That's uh... Lately, a pervert was reported to appear every night on the streets."

"...Is that so? But shouldn't this be an issue for the police?"

Rose looked like she was in a predicament from my question.

"According to witnesses, it seems like the pervert is someone who wears a spiky black armor..."

Part 3

"Hey there Ojou-san, I'm about to show you a magic trick! Look, I'm not using any hands and my pants' zipper is going down!"

"Kyaaaaa! Pervert! S-someone, please help meeeeeeee!!!"

To think that a girl would walk alone at this time, just how did her parents raise her?

As I looked at the sight of the girl running away, I could hear the familiar narration of points being added while I zipped up my pants.

"Jeez, how rude. I worry about this kingdom's future... Ah, with this, this is the sixth person tonight... Should I go for that girl going around the alleyways next?"

It was way past late and just about the time for the date to change.

I started chasing the girl walking around the alley alone.

There's nobody around, now's the time!

"Waaaaaaah, look at meeeeeeeeeeee!!!"

"Kyaaaaaaaaa!!!"

While spreading my arms out, I blocked the girl's path.

"Now Ojou-chan, can you summon some courage and lower my zipper?"

"Nooooo! I'm going to be raped!!!"

As if she was shocked from me appearing out of nowhere, the girl squatted on the ground and looked like she couldn't move.

"Heheheheh, don't worry. I won't lay a hand on you! You only have to scream while running away! If you don't hurry and run away, this zipper will come down by itself without you doing anything, you know~?"

"Kyaaaaaaaa! Saying you won't lay a hand on me, that's definitely a lie, isn't it!? As soon as I drop my guard from your reassuring words, you're going to drag me to a dark place and rape me on the spot to turn me into your sex slave!!!"

Trying to reassure the girl that was crying out loudly,

"Relax, I have my own reasons to not lay a hand on you! Now hurry up and run away or else there's no telling what you might see, okay~?"

As I was saying that, I slowly raised my hand and moved it towards the zipper.

"Lies, you're definitely lying! I'm obviously going to be kidnapped, and then used to satisfy your overflowing sexual appetite! Ah, just my luck! While I was being chased by you, I sprained my foot from rolling over! I won't be able to run away at this rate! Noooooooooooooooooo!!!"

"Y-you never rolled over... I'm not going to kidnap you, and it's not like I'm going to lay a hand on you in public. So look at me for a moment and you just have to feel a little anxiety..."

"Nooooooooo! That's a lie! A beautiful girl is going around defenseless, on a night like this! There's no way you won't touch a hair on me! Clearly, you're going to drag me to a lone house overlooking the beautiful ocean, and turn me into a sex slave while forcing me to bear three kids!"

What's with this girl. Really, just what is she saying?

"Uhh no, so this is... Wait... Uh, uhhhh, this is weird, my atrocity points aren't going up... Hey, it's not like you actually hate the situation you're in. I told you that you just have to look at me for a bit!"

I was desperately explaining the situation, but the girl covered her ears and just screamed no.

"Nooooooooo! What do you mean, just look. I don't want to!!!"

"Just loooooooooooooooooooooooooook!!!"

"— Fine then, I'll look instead."

I was having a hard time figuring out what to do with this weird girl so I was relieved to hear those words behind me. I turned around..

"What, you want to see it that much!? Then I'll show you my-"

Standing there was Snow.

"My... what? Continue what you were saying. Weren't you going to show me something?"

After releasing the girl that I became mixed up with, Rose looked at me as if she was seeing something very pathetic. Next to her, Snow, as if everything was usual, stood there with her arms crossed and a very cold gaze.

"....I'm sorry."

My voice could barely be heard.

"You don't really have to apologize. Weren't you about to show us something? I said that I would look at it. Oi Rose, call over all the customers at the nearby tavern. It seems like this guy is about to show us something. Now, show us! Show us that small thing, I'll thoroughly look at it!"

"I'll apologize, so please forgive me! But take back what you said about it being small!!!"

"—So? You fail as a human being, you're an idiot and a pervert so I know that you're a hopeless piece of shit, but just what happened for you to end up this way? Explain yourself clearly."

I was in a deserted alleyway kneeling in front of Snow.

"So, um.... How should I put it... this is preparation for taking on the Demon King's Army...?"

"...You bastard, do you really take me for an idiot? Put a little more effort in making up a better excuse."

As she said that, Snow's hand was reaching for the sword on her waist...

"That's not the case! I'm not lying, it's actually true! I really need to do this! If you can't believe me, then ask Alice, she's back at the house!!"

"Are you an idiot!? What kind of stupid thoughts were you having to think that your perverted acts can be related to the Demon King's Army!!?"

Damn it, to think that she'd actually present a reasonable argument!

But really, how should I explain this to her...

"But this is really true-! I'm not lyiing, it's truee!!!"

"That's enough, shut up! We parted ways so seriously, give me back the time I spent worrying over all sorts of things! Aren't I a fool for being seriously

depressed!?"

"C-commander and Snow-san as well, please calm down! More importantly! Commander, why did you quit being the commander? No matter how many times I asked Snow-san, she wouldn't tell me...."

Rose rushed over to stop Snow from drawing her sword.

Seems like she didn't tell anyone the reason for us leaving.

"It was because Snow's sexual harassment was getting worse by the day and I couldn't take it any longer. This girl, every time we met on the hallways, she would touch my butt. Spread the word to everyone in the castle."

"Just who do you think I am!? Don't spread those stupid, false rumors! I've had enough. I feel dumber just talking to you. I'm going to let you go this time, but just know that there won't be a next time if I hear another rumor about a pervert!"

While Snow said those words, she turned around and started walking...

I started talking to her back,

"I heard that the Demon King's Army will attack soon. If you need the help of my ridiculous strength, then say "I'm sorry for the way I treated you until now" and act a little cutesy while you beg for my help!"

"Who would ask for your help!? As usual, you're a genius in getting someone angry! Should I give you a good beating and cut you down this time!?"

The blood went completely to her head as Snow turned around and instantly grabbed the sword at her waist.

"From the start, I told you not to show yourself before me, but why did you suddenly show up, you idiot!?"

"You were the one who popped out in front of me on your own, stupid, stooooopid!"

"Both of you aren't children anymore so please calm down! Commander! And Snow-san too!"

Rose was desperately trying to come in between our fight, but...

"Rose, this bastard is no longer the commander so just call him by his name! I've had enough, I'm going back!"

After saying that, Snow, once again, turned her back from me.

"It'd be great if the blood vessels in your brain would stop working from being so angry."

"What did you say!?"

"Both of you, please behave appropriately! If you don't, I'm going to bite!!"

Part 4

Several days later.

"Hey, there's ZipperMan!"

"Oi, ZipperMan! Lower your zipper!!"

While I was walking down the street, kids were yelling and throwing rocks at me from behind.

"Oh my gosh, look. That's the rumoured... "

"...Hey, hey, do you want to go talk to him? He might even lower his zipper!"

Girls, that looked like they were students, were gossiping quietly to each other.

"Um, so... This, and that...."

I ignored everything happening around me while I ordered some grilled skewers from a lady.

"Ok, one lizard meat and one rat meat right? All together, your total would be 6 copper coins."

I held out my hand to give her the money, but.....

"Kyaaaaa!"

.....

While my hand was still out there with the money, the woman was half-apologizing while the other half looked like it was holding back laughter.

"I-I'm sorry. I... just thought that you'd be unzipping your pants and taking the money out from there."

"—Uwaaaahhh! Alice, hear me out-! The people here are too much!"

I was crying while barging into Alice's room.

"What is it, ZipperMan? Did you get your skin stuck to the zipper?"

"Don't call me ZipperMan!"

Because of Snow distributing notices out, I was now being made fun of as a famous pervert.

A voice could be heard from outside the window.

"ZipperMan! Hey, come out! Show me some magic with your zipper!!"

"You stupid brat! I'm going to pull your pants down in front of everyone, and make you have your debut as No Panty-Man!!"

When I was about to rush out, Alice stopped me while writing something on a piece of paper.

"It'd be better if you just stop, ZipperMan. If you cause any trouble right now, you'll really be arrested."

"Stop calling me ZipperMan!! Damn, I did this for the sake of fighting the Demon King's Army-!"

That's right, I did it to collect more atrocity points. I had no choice but to do it.

"Although I told you to go amass more atrocity points, I didn't even imagine that you would collect it that way, ZipperMan."

"Don't call me ZipperMan!! Just you wait, you villagers! Once everything's over, I'll show them that I'm not some simple pervert!"

"So you were aware that you were a pervert... Good, it's finished."

Alice spread out a map and book on the desk, and then turned towards me.

While I was munching on the skewers that I bought, I sat in front of Alice.

"Basically, anti-personnel mines will be enough for most demons. For large demons, should I bring over a couple anti-tank mines as well?"

I let Alice decide how to use the points I earned the past couple days.

It didn't really matter if I was the one to decide, but I chose to trust the judgment of someone that self proclaims to be high-performance.

"Currently you have a little over five hundred points. I want to leave about two hundred for the trump card. We'll use three hundred points for three anti-tank mines, and let's use the rest for anti-personnel mines."

"I never thought that a day would arrive when I'd spend my points on mines. It feels like a waste of my precious points..."

Usually, the payment system of atrocity points is for one to attain powerful weapons that are normally very difficult to get a hand on.

Anti-personnel mines were cheap for emergencies. As an item, they'd cost hundreds of yen.

"Do you think it'll work if we tell them that in return for the mines, we'll send them gold coins instead?"

"It probably wouldn't work. The generals would prefer you to commit evil acts rather than care about the expenses incurred from backing you up. I think they want you to start off small, then slowly work your way up to the point where you can dye your hands in a great act of evil, and finally become a great general candidate."

Well there were some talks of that when I was still back on Earth.

"I wonder if those people think I'm someone with the guts to commit a huge act of evil."

While I recalled the faces of the three top generals, I let out a small sigh.

"For a coward, you've worked pretty hard gathering up points, the past few days. Since you're wanted for being a pervert after being nailed by Snow, it'd probably be hard to earn more points using that method... Still, within that short period of time, even with those petty evil acts, you've done pretty well earning this many points."

"Hey, are you praising me? Or are you insulting me? Which is it?"

As Alice was writing a memo of all the things we wanted to be teleported,

"Ok. Then, I'll start confirming what we're going to do from now on. Since the hero's not here right now, if the Demon King's Army forces their way here, then their morale will increase. This is the worst case scenario for us. It's not like we can leave this base behind. Within the area, if the seemingly largest kingdom falls, then nobody would be able to stop the advance of the Demons. If they advance far enough and take down another kingdom, no matter where we go,

we won't even have the time to set up the machine or to wait for it to stabilize."

Just what is the Hero doing scurrying around..

"You said that it would take about a month to set up the machine and for it to stabilize, right?"

"Yeah, if I rushed it, it'd take around three weeks, but I want to absolutely make sure it stabilizes. I don't want to teleport again while it's unstable. I'd be grateful if you can understand that it'd take one month to avoid that situation."

Huh?

"Uh, you just said that you didn't want to do it again.. Just out of curiosity, but you don't mean that time when you and I were teleported here, right? More importantly, just what were my odds of safely teleporting here?"

"And that's why, the kingdom's army needs to use whatever means necessary to repel the invasion, otherwise we will lose our safe spot to complete the installation process. But looking at the current situation, if we don't intervene in some ways, then defeat is likely. The only reliable card is the Hero. We need to buy time for him to quickly return... So as for us, we'll set up some mines and traps. We'll engage in some guerilla warfare to tie up their legs."

"Oi, answer me. Truthfully, it was very dangerous, right? Just how did that happen... But, you mentioned guerilla warfare. It's been a while... But in the last guerilla warfare I partook in, I made some small traps. They were pretty effective in the woods. I wonder if our fellow monsters, Tiger-Man-san and Chameleon-Man-san are doing well..."

If those two were here, the upcoming battle would've been easy-peasy...

"After explaining the situation to Kisaragi, it'd be great if they could send over a few people who have nothing to do. The generals don't like to sacrifice their underlings like chess pieces. On that note, if it's not a situation where a return is guaranteed, then they'll never give permission for reinforcements to arrive."

"I was sent here, even though it was never confirmed to be completely safe..."

Alice ignored my remark as she spread out the map.

"Alright, I'll start calculating the enemy's route for invasion. Well, given the layout of the land and the size of the enemy's army, there's not much to think about..."

"...Oi Alice, there's no chance I'm hated by the generals, right? Right? They consider me precious, right? Since I'm a future general candidate?"

Alice ignored my comment completely and stood up.

"Hmm, should we plant some mines there as a way to stop those that hunt humans from wandering in? There's not much we can do, but, until the Hero-sama returns, let's at least reduce the number of vanguards in the Demon King's Army!"

"Oi Alice, say something please!? Huh? Huh!? Huh-!?!"

Part 5

The following day.

"—Alright, that should be fine. The camouflage is perfect. This one's done. Hurry up and dig another hole."

In response to Alice, who was humming and burying the mine,

"...Haaaaaah... Haaaah... Haaaaah..."

I didn't even have the energy to reply because of being exhausted from all this manual labor.

In the end, I tossed the shovel aside and flopped to the ground.

"You... Unlike you, I can't move anymore. Let me rest..."

It was about noon right now.

I started working before the sun even came up.

Up till now, I didn't even take any breaks while I was mindlessly digging holes.

"If you keep talking like that, this place will already be in the range of the Demon King's Army. It's noon right now, it wouldn't even be out of the question if we were discovered by them. We're almost done, so just put up with it for a little longer."

From Alice's response, I started moving my heavy body against my will. I picked up the shovel, and started to work again.

"In the first place, the one who should be digging... should've been you... since you don't even tire... And I should be the one burying the mines... That would've been more efficient..."

Alice was sitting down while watching me dig holes and complain in between gasps for air.

"It's just in case. It's likely that there are demons with good sense of smell. If a human like you touches the mines, then those demons might discover them from the human scent. If it's only digging holes, then even if this whole area is

covered in that scent, it's likely that it won't reach where the mines are. Also, getting through this location is unavoidable to get to the kingdom. Since they can't take any detours, they have no choice but to break through here... Furthermore, could you even remember where the mines would be buried? It's important to remove the mines after the war is over."

"...It kinda feels like slave labour..."

After suddenly remembering something, I said to Alice,

"Oi Alice, leave one mine behind. I have an idea."

I took out something from my pocket and showed it to Alice while she looked at me with interest.

That item was the magic stone that I stole from Heine of the Flame last time.

"Let's place this on top of the mine's trigger and rig it. I was thinking about selling or destroying it, but this is a good chance to use it."

"Even if you do that, I don't think they'd be stupid enough to fall for such an obvious trap. They might even think to use their underlings to fetch it. And the odds of Heine being the first to discover it are absurdly low. Also, if you think about the remote possibility that the stone would fall under the hands of the demons, wouldn't it be better off to just destroy it?"

As Alice was saying that, she carefully observed the stone.

"I get it. When all the demons try to retrieve it, they'll probably get caught up in the whole area, and in that moment, it'd probably be destroyed. But on the off chance that Heine is the first one to discover it, she'd happily march over to retrieve it. However, it'd explode right in front of her eyes. I imagined what her face would be like, and I couldn't help myself."

"...Your personality is as good as ever."

—When we returned after finishing up our work, the mood in the streets was different compared to yesterday's.

Every person we passed by looked very pale while wearing a dark expression and walking with their heads lowered.

"Looks like something's happened. The mood wasn't this bad even when

there was an unknown pervert going around noisily."

"Hey. I want to forget about that, so can you not bring it up anymore?"

Even though Alice brought that up, the mood really did bother me.

I went up to a woman close by.

"Excuse me, I'm sorry, but can I have a moment of your time?"

"Yes, what is it... Eeeeeek! Zi-Zipper..."

.....

The woman was surprised at the sight of me, and took a few steps back. She was about to say something, but closed her mouth instead.

"I apologize that this pervert accompanying me did something terrible. The village seems strange, just what happened here?"

The woman didn't take her gaze off me. Although she was still trembling, her wariness seemed to have dropped a little after hearing Alice speak while acting like an innocent girl.

"Ah, uh... I think it's probably because the Hero-sama... went missing after his fight with one of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King's Army, Faustress of the Wind... As a result, the Demon King's troops' morale went up and it seems like this village will be targeted...."

Part 6

"According to the report I obtained, it seems like the Hero had one of the Four Heavenly Kings on the brinks of defeat. But, it seems that the enemy, known as Faustress of the Wind, managed to corner the Hero and used a random teleport spell that didn't have a specific designation point on him."

As soon as we got home, we had an emergency meeting.

"Regarding this teleport spell, if it can connect two spaces, then he could be anywhere. His current location is unknown. Like when we first came here, we were dropping from the sky. He might have been sent up in the air somewhere on this planet. He could be in the sea, or even right in the middle of the Great Evil Forest. Well, going by probability, his chance for survival is abysmal."

"Although I never even saw the Hero's face once, I feel sorry for him. If the teleportation process didn't go as planned, I could be in the same situation as him. Well in my case, I was promised a high success rate..."

While I was talking as if this was someone else's matter, since I could've faced the same situation as him, I couldn't help but feel some sympathy for the Hero.

".....That's right."

"Wait, what was with that pause right now?"

Seems like this wasn't really someone else's matter.

"Anyways, according to the legend that was passed down, wasn't the Hero supposed to defeat the Demon King? Even though I don't believe in that kind of unscientific reasoning, I heard that so far, everything occurred exactly as in the legend. So I'm wondering just how it turned out this way?"

"Oi, don't try to change the subject, answer me clearly... Still, it's pretty ridiculous that the Hero is out of the picture. Since the Demon King appearing and the Hero receiving the crest that looks like some mole was all according to that legend..."

Alice was lost in thought.

"...Hey No. 6, you enjoy those games and novels about heroes, right? Since I don't have data on entertainment because it was exempt from input, I don't know about these matters. But in those stories, how does the plot typically unfold? Does the hero that come out of nowhere display some supernatural strength, and defeat everything without any trouble?"

"Hmm? In most stories, there's at least one time where he loses. After being defeated by a powerful enemy, he realizes how weak he is and starts to train. After becoming stronger, he would take his revenge. Well, there's at least one crisis that happens sometime during a story's arc. Right now, do you think this random teleport is the crisis that happens at least once? Do you think that the hero is training in wherever he was sent flying, and he'll return much stronger when the kingdom's on the verge of doom?"

At the place he was sent flying, he'll encounter a mysterious old man, and return after learning a special move.

Forget about being sent flying... In most manga, getting stronger from turning defeat into experience is a fundamental part of the story.

But, Alice shook her head a little...

"...No, this is different in most parts. The hero has already tasted defeat. I'm talking about his fight with the two bosses back at Duster Tower. If it was as you said, then after his defeat, the hero would've trained for his revenge, and use that special move he learned to crush that wind boss or whatever. Truth be told, if it wasn't for us... With the level of power the kingdom possessed, there'd have been no way for them to succeed in attacking that tower. The Hero's party should've overcame the powerful enemies that even defeated the kingdom's forces. By being victorious, they would've inspired hope amongst the people. However..."

"....Are you saying that because I robbed the Hero of his chance at revenge by showing up and capturing that tower, I somehow changed the Hero's legend? Stop it, you make it sound like it's my fault. There's no way that I did could mess up what's been passed down for years, right?.... Oi, you're supposed to be high-performance right? Figure something out!"

Feeling that this became a big deal, I pleaded to Alice while violently shaking

her.

"...Th-there are many methods available. That is, if we use any means necessary."

Alice raised one finger and said,

"For the time being, go commit some heinous act in order to gather a lot of points. I'll ask for them to send a biological weapon that's normally forbidden."

.....

"D-do you have another method?"

While in front of me, Alice raised another finger.

"I'll go into the Demon King's castle alone. I'll be attacked after provoking some of them, and I'll detonate my built-in, somewhat dangerous power core. Then all the enemies within the Demon King's castle will be obliterated."

"Rejected, you idiot! Don't you have something a little more tame!?"

But Alice didn't even raise a third finger.

"There's none. Let's say we somehow blocked the approaching demons after they finished up their preparations. However, from the start, the kingdom's military strength is lacking compared to theirs. Since the Hero is no longer here, and that was their trump card, even if we somehow managed to block this invasion, it'd only be delaying the inevitable."

"...If that's the case, the only thing left for us to do is...."

Alice and I both agreed...

""We're ditching this place.""

We decided to give up cleanly.

Part 7

"Oi, why are we leaving behind my favorite pillow!? What's with your huge luggage!? Leave that behind and let's take my pillow instead!"

"You stupid fool, all of the things that I'm taking are of incredible value. Their value is enough to buy a mountain's worth of your filthy pillows."

Alice and I were packing our stuff, and getting ready to escape the area.

This kingdom was now doomed.

There's a lot of other things in consideration, but for people, the most important thing is their own life.

Of course, since the others are so strong, they'll probably be able to survive what's coming.

"Oi Alice, what are you going to do about the teleportation machine that you've assembled? You can't use it yet, can you?"

"It's connected to Earth, but the space we used for teleportation hasn't stabilized yet. If there was even a tiny error, there might have been a crushing calamity on this planet and Earth. It's a relief that we made it here successfully. It'd have been no laughing matter if we were teleported to the bottom of the ocean."

The more I hear about this this, the more I wonder if making it here was actually a miracle.

"...It's alright, the geniuses at Kisaragi worked hard for a long time to calculate the destination coordinates for this planet. That's why even the parachute was brought with us? Something like this was only difficult because it was the very first teleportation. From now on, if you have me, it'll be fine. Let's leave the teleportation machine behind. After we secure another base, we'll start receiving new parts there."

"Don't read my mind, those words aren't enough to change the subject! If that was the case, then they should've teleported us somewhere with a lower altitude!"

As I said that, it happened while we were getting ready to ditch this place.

A knock on the front door as well as a call for somebody could be heard.

But, there wasn't anyone that would come look for us at this place.

Then that means...!

"That brat, to think that idiot would come at this busy time! I'm going to strip him naked and drop him off at the girls' bathroom!"

I went downstairs, and as soon as I opened the door forcefully—!

"It's been a long time, No. 6-sama. I came to you because I have something to discuss."

Tirris was standing there with many soldiers. She was wearing a beaming smile.

—Inside Tirris's room on the highest floor of the castle.

"I'll have to refuse."

We were dragged here, half of it was against our will, and the other half was because it was close. I immediately refused Tirris's request.

"...But, I haven't even said anything...."

Looking hard pressed, Tirris cutely raised her eyes while talking.

It's no use acting cutely with your eyes.

I've heard from Snow before that, as Alice predicted, Tirris is the one that controls the politics of this kingdom.

"Weren't you going to ask me to fight against the Demon King's Army, or to block their advances, or to ask me to be your boyfriend? It's a pity, but I don't have the time right now. I do feel a little sorry but can't you find someone else?"

"Wait... I don't know about that last one..."

The soldiers that surrounded us at the place we were dragged to, left the room.

The only people in the room were me, Tirris, and Alice

Then, while being cautious, I was about to ask what this was all about,

"No. 6-sama. Do you have any recollection of what this is?"

As Tirris said that, she took out a climbing backpack.

This is—

"It's a parachute."

"You idiot."

"Is that so. So this is called a parachute."

From the words coming out of my thoughtless mouth, Tirris' ears reacted brightly.

Alice looked very irritated, just how did it end up like this...?

That was definitely the thing that had no further use after we arrived on this planet. Since it was dead weight, we left it behind.

"This is the thing that fell near the site from the day people witnessed the unknown flying object... I don't know what this object is used for, but it seems like No. 6-sama even knows what it's called."

I felt a chill run through me as Tirris slightly smiled while saying those words.

What's going on, just what is she getting at?

"I will ask you clearly. No. 6-sama, you're a spy from a foreign nation. You're an agent, aren't you?"

A fastball straight down the middle was thrown at me.

"I don't understand what you're saying."

"Is that so? Then I will start with the torture."

"I'm sorry for lying. I'll admit to being a spy so please forgive me."

"Hey, that was too fast! Even if she said that, can't you at least pretend to have a spine!?"

Alice unexpectedly chipped in towards the me that's already given up.

However, Tirris didn't denounce us right away. She was smiling as if she was

happy.

"...Hey, aren't you going to capture us?"

I asked Tirris that because I was feeling really uneasy of her.

"But I'm not going to capture you? For just one thing. I have a favor to ask of you."

As Tirris said that, she clearly looked at us.

"You mentioned that both of you came from beyond the Great Evil Forest, right?"

Well, since we came from beyond this planet, it's actually not wrong to put it that way. So I nodded my head.

"You two arrived to this land after people witnessed the unknown flying object. In other words, you two have some method to fly through the skies. If that's the case, then it's believable that you two really did come out of the Great Evil Forest."

Tirris had such a triumphant look on her face that I even considered telling her that most of her speculation was wrong.

As I was having those thoughts, Tirris looked at me seriously.

"This kingdom... will likely fall tomorrow. If that happens, the Demon King's Army will have their sights on the empire nearby... So that's why I have a favor to ask of you two."

"...Well, I'll hear what you have to say."

As she looked at me straight in the eyes,

"The kingdom's knights... and the soldiers' way of life.. Won't you watch over them until the very end? Also, please let your nation know that this kingdom once existed here. For the sake of those that fight against the Demon King's Army, please tell them that they fought bravely on these lands. Also, in order to resist the demon king's army through any means necessary, please persuade other nations to form an alliance.... Although this may be pathetic of me, the only thing I can do is to make sure that their noble deeds are remembered in the future."

After Tirris said those words, she changed her sitting posture.

"Please, can I leave this to you?"

Although Tirris was a part of the royal family, she lowered her head at me, even though she didn't even know where I came from.

Part 8

It was completely dark outside the window. The sound of insects buzzing nearby could be quietly heard.

The time right now was already past midnight.

"This is so troublesome... It's not like I could even reject her after she asked me with such a serious face... Since it's come to this, should I just run away right now? No, if I'm going to run away, it should be when it's all chaotic from the Demon King's Army's attacks..."

After I came out of the bath in the barracks, I was mumbling to myself while walking towards Tirris' room.

"Well... Tirris said that she'd use all means to let me escape if worse comes to worst..."

Tirris told me if the outer wall is breached after the demons begin their invasion, to retreat through the skies.

In truth, it's actually impossible for me to receive some kind of plane with the amount of points I have.

...While I was having those thoughts, it happened.

"Ah, it's the Commander!"

Just after I finished my bath, Rose quickly sighted me and began talking to me.

Rose, while pushing Grimm's wheelchair, greeted me by slightly nodding her head my way. Grimm's eyes were shining,

"Commander, I heard that you couldn't put up with Snow's sexual harassment any longer and quit, so why are you in this place?"

"Grimm! Don't believe that rumor, it was made up by this bastard!"

And straight ahead was also the sight of Snow being sulky.

"Because of accepting Tirris' favor, I'm going to be in this castle till tomorrow. Although she told me I can leave if things get bad."

"Is that so! If the commander is Tirris-sama's guard, then I can rest easy!"

It seems like they think that I've been employed as Tirris' guard.

I couldn't tell the innocently smiling Rose about the heavy request I've been entrusted with. As I stood there without denying anything,

"...If it's a request from Tirris-sama, I can't say anything, but this is making me uneasy in other ways... No. 6, since I won't be there, don't you dare do anything stupid or even think about sexually harassing Tirris-sama? You hear me?"

"I wasn't planning on doing that, but now that you mention it, it does sound pretty fun."

"Stop it! Oi, I'm not joking around, you know? Do you really understand!?"

I asked the question that was hanging on my mind to the three of them.

"Where are you going to be stationed tomorrow?"

If it's the same treatment from when we were a squad, they'd probably be leading the frontlines.

"Hmph, don't worry about it. Grimm and Rose are both members of the royal guards. As the name implies, royal guards protect the lives of the King or the princess. We will be stationed at the main gate of the city. We will be entrusted with the final defense."

I was relieved to hear that the people I know won't be placed in a dangerous location.

"Don't die tomorrow, you guys. If it gets too dangerous, it doesn't matter what happens to this kingdom. Just run away, ok?"

As I said those words,

"Are you an idiot!? We have great pride as royal guards! We would rather choose an honorable death over running away! Right!?"

""Eh?""

.....

"We'll do our best as well tomorrow! If it gets too dangerous for you, Commander, you have to make sure to escape with Tirris-sama!"

"I'll also do my best in waking up tomorrow, so leave it to me! I can't die without still knowing a man! I'll survive at all costs and get a cool husband!"

"Oi, you guys! What do you mean by 'eh'!? You're going to stay behind right? You're going to stay behind with me until the end, right?"

If they're like this, they'll definitely be alright.

"... What is it? Stop smirking, it's making me feel bad. I'm telling you this now, but I'm only overlooking this because it seems like you've received some kind of request from Tirris-sama. Don't think that you'll be forgiven for before. "

I was only looking at them happily, Snow just had to pick a fight because she felt bad because of my smiling face.

"What did you say? You're always so narrow-minded. This is why you'll never be a match for Heine of the Flame."

"You, you bastard...! Did you even know that these two worried over you after you were kicked out of the castle!?"

While looking at the never-changing sight of Snow in a bad mood, I started picking my ear with my pinky.

"Yeah, yeah. I'm reflecting on what I did~"

"....."

While facing Snow silently drawing her sword, I took a defensive stance from the threat and slowly retreated backwards.

"Ahahaha! You never change, Commander. Even when we don't know what will happen tomorrow, you still just fight around with Snow-san... I finally understand. That you guys have that good of a relationship to always fight. I've decided from now on to never break up your fights!"

As her laughter grew, Rose was happily clapping around.

"Both of you bickering is so annoying... So annoying, should I cast a curse right now? Snow, even you, when the commander left, you were so lifeless. You're so lively today."

"Ok that's it. I'll take all three of you on. This will be the prelude to

tomorrow's battle. I'll be the one to educate troublesome people like you!"

As the short-tempered girl said those words, as if saying that you're the first one, she started slashing her sword towards my direction.

She wasn't even thinking of stopping Snow. I don't know why Rose looked so happy. She was all smiles when saying,

"I might've been the happiest when the Commander was the commander of the squad. I'm realizing that a little, right now."

"Well, it's not like I didn't like those days as well. Although the commander's sexual harassment is pretty harsh, he did treat us out often!"

As the easy-going voices could be heard,

"I don't care what it was like, just stop this girl! Just what are you thinking if we fight one another when the enemies didn't even start their attack yet!?"

The peaceful night carried on—

FINAL
CHAPTER



COMBATANTS WILL
BE DISPATCHED!



Chapter 6

Part 1

We were inside the city, with the castle looming above us.

The general loudly addressed the knights that made camp there to protect the area.

"Friends! You've probably already heard that Hero-dono is missing. There are many that may have fallen into the bottoms of disappointment, or the depths of despair. However, Hero-dono has not fallen. We will protect the kingdom and protect the people, if we keep fighting the fight, our final hope, Hero-dono will surely return! Protect this gate, this kingdom, and protect your families! Protect your pride! It's now all up to you! Let's show the Demon King's Army that it's not just Hero-dono they should fear!!"

The knights and soldiers were roaring as a result of the general's speech that was embellished with a little bit of false promises.

"...No. 6-sama. How do you think the enemy will move...?"

Tirris asked me a question while I...

"It's true! I saw it, the unicorn used its horn to lift a little girl's skirt! That kid, the knights were looking after, was a victim! There's something wrong with that unicorn, there definitely has to be an old man inside it!"

"Alright, alright, I'll hear about that story later. I'm writing a letter to send to the other side right now, explaining the situation and asking if they can make some accommodations. Don't bother me."

I was busy explaining the shocking scene that I just saw at the stables.

"E-excuse me, No. 6-sama..."

"Either way, those cold-blooded generals won't make an exception for this case. More importantly, hear me out. This is pretty important, you know!? If there are unicorns around then that means this kingdom must have horses as

well. Then it should be fine with just horses! There's no need to use perverted unicorns with troublesome natures!"

"Even if you tell me that, there's no way for me to know. Although I'm investigating various ecological aspects, considering that I can't see the process of evolution, there's a mountain's worth of incomprehensible examples. There is an endless amount of questions such as why there are so many beings here that existed only in our myths or legends. From the start, that was also the case with extremely irrational phenomena such as magic and curses..."

I wanted to tell her that from my point of view, her existence is also pretty irrational.

"...It seems like both of you are interested in magic. If it's something simple, even I can use it, you know?"

"Really? Show me, show me!"

"Oh, I'd like it for you to show me as well."

As if she was a little lonely because we were ignoring her, Tirris tried to draw our attention.

The knights of this kingdom were standing still, waiting for the Demon King's Army to approach.

Part 2

"—Now, you bastards, let me hear your battle cries as we march! The time to dominate that country is now! The Hero is gone! Furthermore, the ones that can stop us..."

Heine of the Flame, while in the middle of making a statement to the demons, hesitated for just a moment.

That was because a certain man came up in her head.

However, she shook her head and brushed off the face that was on her mind.

"There's nobody that can stop us! Let's go, you bastards! Show the humans the terror of the Demon King's Army!!"

From those words, the gathered members of the Demon King's Army, that was nearly twice the military strength of the kingdom's army, bulged their chests and started stomping their legs. While making the ground tremble, they shouted with great vigour.

"Oi, Heine. If you have this many demons, then is there really a need for my tiger golems? The Hero isn't even there. You all should be enough to take that kingdom of puny humans... Even if you can't use your normal strength since you only have that catalyst with a tiny amount of magic power."

The one that was belittling Heine of the Flame was one of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King's Army, Gadalkand of the Earth.

Since the Hero, the hope of humanity was gone... The demons currently thought that the humans were drowning in terror and that this battle was going to be easy.

He determined that a weakened Heine and the scores of courageous and fearless demons should be enough to take care of the kingdom's army that consisted of practically dead men walking because of the low morale.

"Don't get careless, Gadalkand. I told you, there's someone there that has defeated me before. Truth be told, I think he's even more troublesome than the Hero. Unlike the Hero who's only strong, he's very unpredictable in what he

does. I'm saying it's better to be safe than sorry, since it seemed pretty difficult for him to beat even one golem. If we have ten of those, even he won't have a way to deal with them."

"...Is he the one that completely smashed my golem? Oi Heine, let me get rid of him. Just like what he did to my golem, I'll leave him in bits and pieces."

Hearing Gadalkand's words, Heine let out a small sigh.

To think that I have to rely on this meathead.

...As she was thinking that, an unexpected event happened.

The golem that was walking in the lead suddenly exploded and pieces of it were scattered around.

""What!?"

Heine and Gadalkand were shocked from the unexpected turn of events.

"Wh-what just... What just happened here!? Oi Heine, is it him!? Did that guy you told me about... The one who destroyed a golem, did he come out!? This is still the territory of the Demon King's Army!"

Gadalkand was always carefree and never batted an eye no matter what happened. But he was showing a rare moment of panic now.

Heine seemed to regain her senses faster after seeing such a scene.

"Don't stop everyone, you'll become easy targets! That was a high-class magic capable of destroying a golem, there's no way it can be fired from long-range! In terms of magic, the stronger the spell, the shorter its range is! They took a risk by increasing the spell's power. If they want to increase their distance, they'll have no choice but to lower the spell's firepower! That spell packed quite a punch, the enemy is obviously close. Find them!"

Even the Demon King's Army that was initially in chaos, immediately regained their senses after Heine quickly gave her orders.

The demons started to spread out in order to search for traces of the enemies, but...

From the continual explosions occurring here and there, this time... Even

Heine and Gadalkand became hesitant.

"Oi oi, what is this!? Since when did it become so easy to fire off high-class magic? Demons are being sent flying everywhere! Just how many enemies are out there!?"

"Kerberos! Bring out the kerberos hounds! Track down the enemies using their scent!"

While Gadalkand was shouting, Heine was giving out further directions.

"...Heine-sama! We tried getting the kerberos hounds to find the enemies, but after smelling the surroundings, they won't move!"

"Gadalkand-sama! The golem! Another golem has fallen!"

"Just how is this happening!? Damn it, you guys, this is a state of emergency! Keep an eye on your surroundings, then advance slowly! The enemies are watching us from who knows where. Don't be careless of your surroundings! Golems go to the back! At this rate, the valuable golems are only easy targets! "

When the impatient Gadalkand gave his command, Heine was searching for hidden enemies. She focused her mind in order to sense the enemy's magic power.

...Nearby, a powerful magic power could be sensed.

It was powerful, but somewhat familiar...

"...This is the wavelength of my magic stone!"

That means the man who took it is there.

Heine understood what was going on, and rushed forward to the magic stone, leaving the other demons behind.

That man should be there, along with the stone.

"...What?"

But, there was no sight of a human, only the magic stone lying around.

While being wary of the surroundings and looking for any signs of a person around, she couldn't find anything.

Heine was approaching the stone restlessly. She started to look around more and more.

"...You're there somewhere, aren't you No. 6? Just what are you thinking?"

The explosions occurring everywhere... The shrieks of all the demons...

Those could be heard from afar, but there was no sound of a person's voice.

The magic stone was right in front of her eyes.

No matter how many times I look around, I can't sense anyone's presence.

Could this be No.6's way of making it up to me?

Since the Hero went missing, is he finally thinking of joining the Demon King's Army now?

"...My... My... My, precious magic stone...!"

Heine happily picked up the precious item that she spent a long time pouring mana into.....!

Part 3

"Then, I'll start! Please watch carefully, because I can only do this once with my strength! I command you in the name of the Goddess of Water, come out, Aquanz!"

<Atrocity points have been added>

"...Oh?"

"What is it, No. 6? Did something happen?"

Alice asked me that after I tilted my head from hearing the sudden narration.

"Uh, it's just that my atrocity points have increased, all of a sudden. I wonder if it's because the parents of that brat who always called me Zipper-Man discovered the porno mags that I placed in easy-to-find places in their house?"

"...You actually did that to a little kid..."

At that moment, a 'pop' sound of water could be heard.

"Did you see it? I just used magic that called forth a water spirit to...!"

As I looked her way, the heavily panting Tirris was standing in front of a puddle with a satisfied smile.

"Sorry, I didn't see it."

"I didn't see it either. I apologize, but can you do it again?"

"Eh...?"

Somehow, Tirris' dark expression became even darker as she stood there dumbfounded.

While looking outside from atop the balcony, there was still no sight of the enemy.

It was already way past the expected time for the Demon King's Army's assault. It was already almost 3PM.

"They're a little late. Are they not coming today?"

"No, they're probably tied up because of the landmine field."

Oh yeah, that was prepared.

...Anyway, them taking longer is a good thing for us.

Since I'm only employed till midnight, once it passes, I have no more reasons to listen to anyone saying something even if I just leave.

Because of waiting idly longer than expected, even the knights stationed outside were starting to become relaxed.

Far away, on the other side of the highway.

When it was getting darker from the sun setting, a pack of demons with blood red eyes could be seen approaching.

"—No. 6-sama, please look! The captain of the 6th group is bravely entering the enemy's territory!"

The ebb and flow of the battle continued.

Many demons were pushing forward, but even though the knights were outnumbered, they displayed great skills by fighting close together and were crushing the scattered demons.

Saying that this was a huge crisis... They're more than a match against the Demon King's Army.

"Hey, if they're only this much, isn't it alright to just stay put and not run away? But Tirris, even if this crisis safely passes by, you can't change your mind and say that a spy deserves the death penalty."

"I would never do something so shameful! Although I admit putting the two of you in one room to save costs, I would never go back on my words!"

.....

"Oi wait a second, you're saying that the only reason Alice and I were put into the same room was to save you money!?"

"Either way for No. 6-sama, once it's tomorrow, you won't even be staying at the castle anymore. So didn't it turn out well?"

"Turned out well, my ass! You have a cute face, but that's just for show!"

While Tirris and I were talking, Alice was watching the battlefield and mumbled.

"...The front line of soldiers collapsed."

"Ah! Just what happened...!?"

Tirris pushed me aside while I was leaning on the balcony. She glued herself there while watching the progress of the battle.

Soldiers were wearing solemn expressions while fighting with great determination.

I left Tirris alone while she was praying for them. Since we had plenty of free time....

"Oi Alice, let's play Five in a Row."

"What's Five in a Row?"

Seeing us spread out a piece of paper on the rug, Tirris looked like she wanted to say something. The corners of her mouth were wavering.

"Weren't you supposed to know everything? We take turns putting O's and X's in each square. The first to have five in a row is the winner. You want to play? What do you think about wagering one gold coin?"

TN: This is also called gomoku. Basically, tic-tac-toe played on a larger grid, and it being 5 in a row. For more information:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gomoku>

"Are you serious? You really think that someone with a human brain can beat me?"

Alice talked in a tone indicating that she was tired of this.

"Since you're high-performance, as a handicap, let's add another rule. When it's back to my turn, instead of just putting down one O, I get to put down another O if it's my fifth turn."

"Hey, don't be ridiculous."

—I wonder just how much time has passed since.

"Ah, ah...! What should we do, even the fourth group...!"

"Alright, it's my win."

On the paper spread out in front of me, Alice drew an X mark.

"Oi oi, 'the first to five wins' is a rule of O X that everyone knows. You only won once."

"Don't be ridiculous."

—The surroundings gradually became darker. Since it was the middle of battle, there were fires starting here and there.

Night was advantageous for demons.

At the very least, they have better vision.

"—No. 6-sama. Please get ready to escape. In the end, the demons made it all the way to the front gate."

Hearing Tirris' voice full of resolve, for a moment, I raised my head.

"Is it that time already... I got it, we'll go get ready."

"Hey No. 6, it's your turn. I even took on your unfavorable handicap, so hurry it up."

Tirris looked at me after I stood up from my spot. She seemed hopeless, nevertheless, she was smiling while crying.

"Really, you... didn't even try to watch them fight."

Tirris' face looked as if she couldn't believe it. I said to her,

"It's because I have faith. There's still Snow, Rose, and Grimm on standby. They're not weak. Besides..."

I put on a smirk.

"They're my underlings."

I firmly said those words that were full of confidence.

"Hey No. 6, it doesn't matter where you go now since it's occupied everywhere. Just give it up and hand over the gold coin."

Part 4

"Rose, Grimm! The enemy's still far away, but don't get distracted! I'm counting on you two to take care of the strong enemies!"

There were screams as well as the sound of fighting breaking out here and there.

"It's alright, leave it to me!"

"I'm a little sleepy... But I'll give it my best...! Once this is over, Snow's going to buy me a lot of alcohol... So I'll do my best... I'll do my best... Soon... Soon, the sun will completely set, so I'll do my best..."

Rose's answer sounded very reliable while Grimm's was anything but.

Once this is over, I'll buy them all they can eat or drink.

One soldier came running from the frontline all the way towards the last line of defense at the main gate, which was us.

"Snow-dono! Snow-dono!!"

The soldier's face was pale while he talked because of rushing all the way here to find me.

"Golems! Just when we were suffering heavy losses from fighting all this time, seven golems forcefully broke through the middle of our forces. They'll soon make their way here!!"

Seven golems!?

"Oi Grimm! Can you do anything about them with your curses!?"

The wheelchair made rattling sounds while Grimm made her way to my side. She looked at the slowly approaching golems.

"It's time for Zenalith-sama to shine. Although destroying them is out of the question, it's possible to tie their legs up! Also, by saying that they're needed for defending this area, I collected all of the couple rings from every couple, so they could be used as offerings for Zenalith-sama."

The usually useless Grimm was looking the most dependable today.

Let's just ignore the the part about collecting...

"Alright, everyone get in formation to protect Grimm! The ones wielding either a hammer or mace, strike the golems when they can't move!!"

It happened while I was giving orders to my subordinates.

"I won't let that happen! You guys stay out of this!!"

The seven golems breached the front gate.

On top of one of the golem's shoulders stood one of the Four Heavenly Kings of the Demon King's Army, Heine of the Flame.

"Yo, so we meet again. But I have no business with you guys. Hand over No. 6! I have some business to take care of with him."

Heine's body had scars all around. She looked really weak, but her face showed no signs of pain. Instead, she looked like she was fuming with anger.

"No. 6 isn't here! And your opponent will be me!!"

Towards the yelling me, Heine sent a look of pure anger.

"You're not enough! That man! That man that made a fool of me! There's no way I'll let him live! How dare he use my precious magic stone as a bait!!"

I wonder what happened. That idiot definitely did something.

I'm getting a little annoyed.

"It doesn't matter if I'm not enough, there's no way I can let you get to No. 6. It seems like Tirris-sama entrusted him with a very important mission. Grimm! Do it!"

"Great Zenalith-sama, bring forth disaster to the puppet made of rock! Suffer from being unable to take your feet off the ground!"

Before I could even finish what I was going to say, Grimm shouted her curse.

The couple rings that Grimm were holding became wrapped in light and disappeared as offerings for the God of Disaster.

The golem that received the curse became unable to take its feet off the

ground, so it fell flat on its face.

The nearby soldiers who witnessed this took their respective weapons and started to attack the fallen golem from all sides.

"Great Zenalith-sama, bring forth..."

"You think I'll let you do that again!? My best magic stone might've been destroyed, but today I brought my backup! It's more than enough for the likes of you!"

Heine starting gathering flame in her hand. While aiming for Grimm, she threw it.

Right before it hit, a small shadow blocked it from the front.

"Great Zenalith-sama, bring forth disaster to this woman! Suffer from having your fire magic sealed forever!"

While the flame was blocked by Rose, Grimm gathered a huge bundle of rings on her lap, and pointed her finger at Heine.

The fortune that was to be offered to the God of Disaster, the large number of couple rings vanished with a flash of light.

As Heine heard that, while startled, she had a shocked expression. She unconsciously closed her eyes, and as if protecting her body, she crossed her arms in front of her.

"...W-was that a dud...? Damn it, that took me by surprise!"

While starting a fire at her fingertip, Heine went 'whew' and had a look of relief as she shouted.

"I hate hookers like you that draw in all the eyes of men! If only I was a little braver, I'd have risked the rebound to give you the curse of having your boobs fall out!"

"I-I don't even know what you're saying! Don't call me a hooker!"

But it seemed like the previous attempted curse was a concern for her. Heine came down from the golem's shoulders and while being wary of Grimm, she moved towards the back.

There were no demerits for Grimm after receiving the curse's rebound of not being able to use fire magic.

It seems like Grimm planned to use the great amount of precious valuables she has, until there's none left, in order to try and seal Heine's flames.

As if realizing that, Heine's face turned a little pale. And then...

"What's going on? Why are you playing around, Heine!? Hurry up and kill that girl!"

Gadalkand suddenly appeared from the flank.

"...Huh? You look a lot like that girl I beat to death last time?.... Well it doesn't matter, since I can just kill you again."

Talking as if he was bored, he raised his metal club.

I started remembering what happened last time, the sight of Grimm's head flying off.

"U-Uryahh!"

With a faint cry, Rose sent a flying kick to Gadalkand's head.

"...Oi, you brat. What did you just do to me?"

After receiving the attack, Gadalkand started scratching the spot where he was kicked.

Then, at a speed unfit for something so large, he flew towards Rose and landed a hard strike with his bare hands on Rose's head.

He didn't even look at her after knocking her out. He set his sights on me while I stood in front of Grimm.

"...Move."

Just one word. He said it without any emotions.

This demon.

This Heavenly King of the Demon King's Army didn't even see me as an enemy.

It was then when the sound of a fire roaring through could be heard.

Gadalkand's body was enshrouded in flames.

"Ack! You brat! Now that I think about it, you could do something like this!! Oi, small fry! The fact that you can't beat me, you probably already realized that from your demon instincts. For a hybrid like you, weren't you treated poorly here anyways? Once this is over, it's fine for you to join me as a comrade. If you get it, then stop interrupting me!"

After flapping his wings and dispersing the flames, Gadalkand turned around.

Rose stood there with her fists raised. She washed away the soot covering her mouth while blood was dripping from her head.

"Eh, eheheh... I already know I can't win. And I know it's true that I'm a hybrid, but... since I'm an apprentice combatant, even if I'm scared, I can't run away from this fight. Also..."

While looking a little scared,

"It was said in my grandpa's will, 'If you happen to find comrades, then never abandon them'...!"

While saying that, Rose looked ready to attack again.

"Is that so. Fine then. Hurry up and die!"

With a roar, the metal club struck the ground where Rose was.

Rather than keeping her distance, Rose intentionally took the fight up close and started punching with all her strength.

While the sound of getting hit by something hard could be heard, Gadalkand grimaced.

Since it takes some time to gather the flames for a fire breath, there's no way for her to use it in this situation.

While dodging Gadalkand's strike that could kill her instantly by a hairsbreadth, Rose started punching endlessly.

The battle between beings far beyond human limits... The soldiers and knights could only stand around them and watch the fight.

—It was the same for me, as well.

She was younger than me, and her body was smaller than mine... A girl that was treated very unreasonably.

Such a person was clenching her teeth while fighting to protect Grimm.

Even if I were to engage Gadalkand... In the end, I would only be getting in Rose's way.

I probably can't even wound him with my sword.

Then that means...

Even though I'm called an elite, the youngest knight ever, I can't do anything right now.

This feeling of helplessness makes me feel so pathetic.

The other Heavenly King, Heine, was being cautious of Grimm's curse while looking around the area for No. 6.

Even when the soldiers were continually firing arrows at her, she blocked them with her scorching flames.

"Great Zenalith-sama, bring misfortune upon that woman!"

As soon as Grimm said that and pointed a finger at her, Heine quickly hid behind a golem's back.

"Don't point at me, you... worshipper of a God of Disaster! Golem, become my shield!"

"D-don't call Zenalith-sama a God of Disaster! I'll cast a curse that will make orcs go crazy in love for you!"

...Let's resolve myself.

Even if my body is burnt from the heat, I should be able to cut her at least once.

I, who only had thoughts for success and money... It's pretty ironic to think that I'd end up on a completely different path and die like a true knight.

My grip on my sword's handle was trembling, but I told myself that this was because I was thrilled.

It was then...

"I don't know what you're thinking, but don't do it. This is an advice coming from an immortal archbishop. Dying is really painful."

While Grimm was keeping Heine in check, she said those words in a serious tone to me, just after I found my resolve.

Right after that... While confronting Gadalkand, Rose called out to me from somewhere behind my back.

"At this rate, they'll break through! Snow-san, please head towards where Tirris-sama is, and tell her to evacuate!!"

At the sound of her urgent voice, I remembered what I had to do.

The original mission of the royal guard is to protect the royal family.

With that said, since I'm a royal guard, evacuating Tirris-sama should be my priority.

But there's no need for me, just because I'm the captain, to go tell her that.

In other words...

"It'll be alright with just us, so hurry up and go! Even if he takes Tirris-sama and finds refuge in some foreign nation, won't you be a little nervous if just the Commander was with her? Snow, you should go as well to watch over him!"

In other words, these two are telling me to run away.

How did this happen?

Just how helpless am I?

Originally, I was the same as everyone else and looked down on those two as nothing but a troublesome bunch. Now, it seems like the roles have been reversed. I'm being told by them to run away.

...There's one way out of this.

There's one person that can somehow pull through at a time like this.

But, how can I face him and ask him to help us when it was me who chased him off?

I remembered what he told me before...

“If you need the help of my ridiculous strength, then say ‘I’m sowwy for the way I treated you until now’ and act a little cutesy while you beg for my help!”

If he can help these two, of course I can do something like apologizing to him.

If he wants, I can act cute as well.

But would he even help us in this dangerous situation?

Should we even involve people from another country in our fight?

In the fight in front of me, Rose was on all fours. Her tail was raised and she threatened Gadalkand.

While looking at the back of a small girl trying to protect me, I decided on what to do, and changed my course.

"Sink in the sea of flames residing in my body...!"

While hearing that voice somewhere behind me,

"Sleep for all eternity! Crimson Breath!"

I ran towards the castle.

Part 5

"— I, don't want to. I'm not going to move from this spot! If we die, we're all going to die together!"

In Tirris' room at the top floor of the castle.

"That's enough, follow me! More importantly, I'll tell you why I'm still here. I'll tell you the real reason! You told me to tell them that this kingdom existed here. And to tell other nations to form an alliance, right? Do that yourself! Even if this nation falls to ruin, if there's even a trace of a royal bloodline alive, then it's your victory! If it's for continuing the bloodline, I'll cooperate anytime!"

"Just now, the last part of what you said was ridiculous! I'm your employer, stop saying such stupid things and let me down! A-anyone! Is anyone there!?"

Tirris was shouting around while being carried like a piece of luggage on my shoulder, but nobody came to help from the lower floors.

There's a reason for that. Actually, the King of this castle asked me to make sure Tirris makes it out safely.

They should have heard Tirris shouting, but it was for that reason that no one came to help.

By the way, what's going on? I didn't think they'd be having this much of a hard time.

I even had a proud face on when I was telling people they were my underlings.

There's no way to win this. Nothing can be done now.

"Ok, let's go Alice!"

"Alright!!"

"Please, just go! Please, let me down, No. 6-sama! Anyway, is this fine with you!? If the castle falls... The people that you talked and laughed with, just yesterday, are all going to die!"

Tirris was pleading with me while causing a fuss on my shoulder.

"You idiot! At a time like this, you should be saying something like... It'll be alright... They will definitely still be alive... Yeah, within our hearts..."

"Then, it's settled with this! Alright, that's enough! This is really dangerous. No. 6, let's quicken our pace!"

"Is there something really wrong with the both of you!?"

I was carrying the crying Tirris with one arm. I made my way to the hallway to escape.

Then it happened just when I was about to go down the staircase.

"Combatant No. 6!!"

The one who ran up was an out of breath Snow with her hair disheveled.

After she called my name out, she stopped right in front of the stairs.

"What is it, I'm in a hurry! If you have something to say, spit it out!"

"Snow, stop him! Please tell him to let me down!"

After hearing both of us, Snow drew a huge breath and started talking with her head down.

"N-No. 6. There are six golems, Heine of the Flame, and Gadalkand of the Earth currently outside."

"I already know that, I was watching from the balcony! It's actually getting pretty bad! If we run away right now, we can blend in with the crowd so that the demons' target will be spread out thereby increasing our chances for survival."

"Hearing you talk that way, you're revealing your true self right now."

While I was in a rush, Snow was the exact opposite, and was slowly mumbling something.

"They can't be defeated by our hands. Rose is buying time for Grimm, but she probably won't be able to last for long."

As soon as I heard the familiar names, I unintentionally stopped my movements.

"Someone like me can't do anything for them. The enemy didn't even consider me a threat."

While still hunching, she barely let out her shaky voice.

"...I was always swinging a sword. My birthplace, the place that I grew up in, the barrier separating men and women... Even with all these obstacles, and also so that I would never lose to anyone, I kept giving it my all and made it all the way to where I am today."

Since I couldn't do anything, I kept listening to Snow's little monologue.

"I'll apologize all you want for everything that's happened. I'll keep doing it until you're in a better mood. So..."

Snow looked up. Then with clinging eyes, bowed her head.

"Please! Lend me your strength! If it's something I can do, I'll do anything! If it's money you want, I'll pay you any amount! I know this is rich coming from me, since I always talk about money, but I'll give you everything I have! Including my sword collection, it should be a sizeable amount!"

"Hey No. 6, don't listen to her! Let's go now! The remaining points should be used for our escape. For things like stun grenades or a bike. There's no need to lend them your strength!"

I was listening very carefully to what Snow had to say, but I came back to my senses from Alice's words.

"I don't need money in this situation. Do you even know the meaning of what you just said about doing anything!? This isn't my job anymore, I'm just an ordinary person now! And that's also because of you! From the start, it was too late to come crying and begging for help! Just how bullheaded can you be, you stubborn girl!?"

"Snow's going so far to ask for your help! I really misjudged you!"

Tirris, while still being carried by me, cried out after hearing my response.

I ignored Tirris' cries, and passed by Snow. Just when I was about to go down the stairs...

Snow grabbed onto my arm.

"It's so frustrating... It's so frustrating to suffer at the hands of them..."

Feeling frustrated is something I know all too well.

I don't know just how many times I've been chased by powerful heroes.

Not only did I not possess the ridiculous strength of monsters, the reconstruction surgery that I was given was also outdated with an uncertain outcome.

I was going to tell her to stop talking so much on her own, and just when I made eye contact with Snow.

—- Until now, this girl pretty much never showed weakness on her face.

Her eyes were filled with tears.

".....Please..... Commander."

She called me Commander for the first time.

And just like how a kid is scared of being scolded by her parents. She said in a small, shaky voice,

".....Commander..... Please save Rose and Grim...!"



Part 6

"

You're really a half-hearted fool that could never accomplish anything evil at the last of the very last moment. You've been with the organization for almost as long as the top generals, but it's because you're like this, that you're still a lowly employee.

"

"S-shut it! I already know that. I know very well that I'm a naive idiot! Whatever, just have a anti-materiel rifle sent here right away!"

The balcony of Tirris' room.

After I returned here, while the surroundings were finally becoming darker, I kicked off the balcony's handrails.

"C-commander! Weren't you going to go to the gate? Just what are you trying to do here?"

I looked towards Snow that was following me like a little duckling. With a desperate look, I raised my voice.

"There's no time to run all the way to the gate! I'm going to attack from here right now! ...How long are you going to hold onto my arm? I'm not going to run away, so let go!"

"Ah...!"

After I said that, Snow quickly let go and started to watch me wreck the area.

"No. 6-sama! I don't know what you're trying to do, but please do whatever you want! You look really cool right now!"

While watching me sabotage the place, for some reason, Tirris sounded very happy.

While I was destroying the cover to make it easier to snipe, Alice called out to me.

"...Hey, what's going on, there's not enough points! I made sure to leave around two hundred points. There's not enough to order a rifle. Just where did you spend the points!?"

Ah...

"So, uh, it was... You know... how this place doesn't have many places to have fun? So yesterday, at night... well... you know...?"

"Did you ask for it!? Did you actually spend important points on a porno magazine!? Did you really ask for that kind of thing during an important time like the night before a battle!?"

My ears!

"I-I couldn't help it. During the middle of night...! It's because there's no such things as convenience stores in this area!"

"What is it!? Is there some kind of problem?"

Hearing Snow's question, Alice sighed just like a human.

"It means that this idiot did something stupid in the end... There's no helping it, it's an emergency situation. Hey No. 6."

"Yes."

Alice pointed at the ground floor.

"Go to the lower floor, and give a good smack to the king that only boasts even though he's useless."

"I'll be right back."

"Don't go!"

"Stop it! Just what did my father do!? Snow, stop these two!"

I said to those two that were trying to stop me by clinging onto me,

"Oi, let go! I need to do this! I'm not playing around!"

After hearing that, Snow let go of her hand.

"...Is it fine for you to hit anyone then?"

While saying that, she looked straight at my face.

"Huh? Well, instead of just hitting a person, it's more like I have to do something that the person will hate..."

"...I understand."

After she said that, Snow closed her eyes.

"Hit me."

".....Eh!?"

Just what is she saying right now?

"Hit me! ...I don't really get it, but don't you need to do this!? So hit me! If... you need to do something I'll hate, then you can touch my chest or do anything you want!"

From the words that the blushing Snow spat out, everyone at the spot became silent.

"Ah, no uh... If you suddenly say that..."

While I was hesitating, Alice whispered to me.

"Do it No. 6, there's no time! If you have any qualms about hitting her, then do something to her chest or lips!"

"Uh, no but, you, what you..."

Because Alice was pushing my back, I ended up right in front of Snow.

While Snow was blushing furiously, she was squeezing her eyes shut and not moving one step.

When I put my hands on her shoulders, Snow, while still having her eyes shut, trembled a little.

While blushing, Tirris held her breath and stared at what was happening.

"...Are you going to do it!? By chance, are you going to kiss!?"

As if she couldn't watch any longer, Tirris covered her face with both her hands. Even though she was doing that, she was still looking at us through the gaps between her fingers.

How did this happen? It's just like during a crisis when my life's on the line.

How did this sudden development occur?

"Do it, No. 6! Grab her! Really, just quickly give her a smooch or do anything, just get it over with! Hurry up, you coward! Quickly!"

Alice was being noisy behind me, the sound of my heartbeat was also noisy, aah what should I do, how should I do this, and why is Tirris staring so hard, you're a princess you perverted brat, Snow you should move a little as well, and just how did it end up this way no wait I have to do this fast I'm not even a middle schooler so a kiss should be nothing no wait will this even earn me any points since we both agreed to do this aaah I don't know what's going on anymore no wait even if I kiss her and points aren't added and if I touch her chest and she lets out a small moan what do I do then aaaah what am I supposed to do aaaaahh!

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah—!!"

As if something was let loose inside of me, I lowered them in one motion.

Snow's panties, that is.

I put my hands under Snow's skirt, and lowered her panties all the way to her feet.

The people around us-

Not only the humans... Even Alice, who didn't have a need to change her facial expression, was standing there looking dumbfounded with her mouth wide open.

At that moment, I'll probably never be able to forget everyone's facial expressions.

<Atrocity points have been added>

Part 7

"That's enough, get off me now, you brat! Damn it, so annoying! Oi Heine, get her off me! She's stuck on my arm and won't come off!"

Gadalkand was shouting in an agitated voice while swinging Rose around and ramming her into the ground. Rose was using both her arms and legs to hold onto the arm for dear life, she was clinging tenaciously and would not let go.

"Just bear with it for a little longer! I'm going to finish up here soon. Oi, Disaster God worshipper! Your curses come at a cost, right? Everytime you fired off a curse, the amount of rings you had decreased! You don't have a lot left. You guys are no match for us, so hurry up and hand over No. 6..."

While Heine was about to say something, at the same time she directed her palm at me...

The upper body of the golem was destroyed. Heine, who was riding on the golem's shoulder was sent tumbling to the ground.

While everyone was clueless as to what just happened, just a beat later, a sound could be heard from afar away.

"Wha- ...What what what what...."

While Heine was still dazed from falling on her butt, once again, another golem's upper body was destroyed.

"What's going on!? Heine, what just happened!? ...Oi, get off me!"

While detaching Rose from his arm, Gadalkand asked Heine.

"I don't know, I don't know, this... This..."

Another golem broke down, and a sound could be immediately heard.

It was definitely heard from a far location.

This means that they were attacking from a place far enough that the sound couldn't be heard until later.

"Anyways, it's dangerous here! Everyone, take to the skies! Also, fly as far

away from each other as possible!"

After Gadalkand gave his orders and flew up, Heine called for the griffin that was circling the sky and quickly got on its back.

At the same time, another golem was destroyed, and the sound could be heard, once again a beat later.

"It's from the castle, Gadalkand! The attacks are coming from the upper part of the castle!"

"...What!? Just what can be done from such a faraway place!?"

At the same time that Gadalkand shouted, the fifth golem was destroyed.

Gadalkand was at a loss for words after seeing that.

"...Gadalkand, your underlings can fly and are pretty skilled. Gather up a few strong ones! There's a strong enemy at the castle. Let's force our way there!!"

"...Oi you lot, follow me! We're going to rush to the castle, let's go crazy!!"

At that moment, the sixth golem was destroyed. Only one golem remained now.

"...They left."

"...So they did. But well, if it's the Commander, he'll probably do something about it."

While smiling at Rose loosening up and talking,

"...Really? You really think that the Commander won't run away and actually do something about it?"

"...Uh, probably."

Finally, the remaining golem was destroyed and a roar erupted from the soldiers nearby.

"Amazing... The commander probably did this, right? This might be weird coming from a chimera, but just what exactly is the Commander?"

"He's really an interesting person... Well, more importantly right now..."

I looked at the large number of demons surrounding us.

Even without the golem or Heavenly Kings around, the enemy still had the overwhelming advantage in numbers.

The distance between the demons and the soldiers that were protecting me was slowly decreasing.

After seeing that, Rose made a threatening sound.

"Kishyaaaah!"

Even though the demons were slightly taken aback, they were still closing the distance.

"Heheheheh..."

I was laughing sinisterly, and while the wheelchair made rattling sounds from it moving forward, I stood up in front of the demons.

"Ahahahahaha! All living beings of this world will eventually return to the void... However, I transcend death and ruin. I am a believer and archbishop of the great Zenalith-sama. My name is Grimm Grimoire. Now, it'll be best if only those that don't fear death would step forward. I will carve into your eyes the essence of my curses!"

Rose, who was besides me, became startled hearing my sudden lines.

"What's with you all of a sudden!? More importantly, what was with those lines!?"

"When it's night, since I'm bored by myself, I think up these lines for times like these."

"Wow, that's not fair! I-I can also...! At times like this, instead of grandpa's pitiful will, a much cooler line...! Uh, this one's name is Rose! ...So... That's... "

While next to Rose when she was hesitating with her lines, I showed the demons what was left of the wealth that was to be offered to my God.

"Now, make sure you thoroughly enjoy the power of the God presiding over the undying and disasters!"

"Wuahhh!"

Part 8

"Fuhahahaha! I'm unrivaled! I'm completely invincible! The Demon King's Army is too easy!"

At the same time the sound of gunfire roared, a golem, far away, was destroyed.

Err, well, it's not like I could see if it was properly destroyed since it was pretty dark.

"Hey, stop laughing so much and relax a little. Your aim is going to be off. "

When I relaxed after hearing Alice's words, she moved the barrel of the gun slightly.

"Alright, fire it."

The sound of gunfire roared.

At the same time, a golem was annihilated.

I don't have the skills to snipe at the golems when they're so far away and on top of it being so dark.

Since the high-performance Alice had a built-in aim assist function, I left the aiming to her so I just had to pull the trigger.

"...A-amazing... So why weren't you using this until now? If we had this, then we would likely have had an easier time winning this battle."

In response to Tirris,

"When I play a game where you collect medals to exchange for good items, I'm the type that never exchanges them for premium items like this; instead I just let my precious pile stack up."

"That's why you can't take advantage of any opportunities, and can't find even a little bit of success. Alright, fire."

The sound of gunfire roared.

The heavy recoil from the anti-materiel rifle left a lingering sensation on my

body.

"...Everytime I fire, it's starting to hurt, like as if I was getting hit."

As I was mumbling,

"Shut up, die."

From another spot, Snow was sitting and clutching her knees while spitefully saying those words.

"...You're the one that said I could do whatever I want."

"Shut up, die."

"...Alright, fire."

With the sound of the gunfire, the final golem was demolished.

"Alright, with that done, I wonder if it's going to be easier?"

"Shut up, die."

"Although the Heavenly Kings should still be around, I don't see... Wait, is that them in the sky? There might be a chance if I was the one who fired it. But even if you fired all our rounds at them while they're flying around in the air, you wouldn't be able to hit them."

"Even if that's the case, if your weak body was the one firing this anti-materiel rifle, some part of you will be sent flying. "

"Shut up, die."

While Alice was watching the Heavenly Kings from the balcony, she suddenly raised her voice.

"...Hey... Hey! They're coming this way, they're aiming straight this way! Everyone, hurry up and get back into the room!"

Heine, while riding the griffin, as well as Gadalkand and other demons were gliding this way as if they were riding the wind.

I put the rifle on my shoulder and grabbed Snow's hand while she was still frozen, sitting and grabbing her knees. Then I ran inside the room.

"Hey, that's enough. It's not like I saw you naked! Just because I lowered your

panties a little!"

"Shut up, die."

Along with the noisy sound of glass breaking, the griffin and demons made their way inside.

"— You did pretty well for yourself, No. 6! I'll be the one to kill you even if it's the last thing I do! You're the first one to ever ridicule me and take me for a fool! You were also responsible for blowing away all those demons before we got here, right!? And you destroyed my magic stone right in front of my eyes!"

While around ten demons that rushed in were making some strange sounds, a furious Heine shouted out.

"I thought you were a familiar face. You were the one crying around and embracing that girl's corpse! Were you able to properly bury her body? Or were you still too attached to it and fucked it? So, were you the one that destroyed my golems? Killing yourself by stabbing yourself in the neck will be far better than what's going to happen to you now. This merciful one will not stop you if you kill yourself. If you're going to do it, I'll wait two minutes for you to die! Starting now! 1! 2! 2..."

Right when Gadalkand started counting after declaring that all on his own, I grabbed the rifle from my shoulder, took aim, and fired.

As if he felt danger from just the sight of the muzzle being aimed at him, Gadalkand jumped out of the way. The demon behind him was obliterated into pieces.

The bullet that pierced the demon made a huge hole in the wall of the room.

After seeing that, the demons making strange sounds became silent.

Pacing around behind me to the right was Alice with her shotgun, and behind me to the left was Snow wielding her sword.

Behind us was Tirris. She resolved herself to watch instead of running away.

"What's going on!?"

They probably heard from the hallway the sound of demons forcing their way inside. Snow, without taking her sights off the demons, shouted to the soldiers

outside the room.

"Demons have arrived! Go protect his majesty!!"

While listening to the conversation, Gadalkand whistled in a mocking tone.

"... Oi, oi, you've got quite a loud weapon on you? As soon as you pointed that at me, I felt a chill. Just what is that?"

Without taking my eyes off Gadalkand, I reloaded the single-round rifle and,

"...This is called an anti-materiel rifle. It's an awesome weapon that's capable of killing something as sturdy looking like you from way far back... And for your information you idiot, the girl you were talking about is still alive and well. You just saw her, you birdbrain! Are you acting so confident just because you thought you've killed her? This guy just sounds like a small fry!"

From my provocation, Gadalkand stopped snickering.

"...Do you really want to die that badly? Fine. As you-"

"'As you wish, I'll kill you!' That's probably what you were going to say, but I'm so sick of hearing that overused line. If you don't want your head sent flying like you did to Grimm, then take the demons swarming around outside and go back where you came from!"

While I said that and waved the gunbarrel around, Gadalkand ducked his body.

"...Oi you lot, that weapon probably can't be fired continuously. There will definitely be a gap right after he attacks with it. If that wasn't the case, then he'd already have made mincemeat out of us. Close the distance by going in together. Don't stop even if someone falls and take his life."

This bastard. In contrast to his looks and frame, he's actually pretty smart!

"No. 6, I'll take care of the small fries. You take care of the Heavenly Kings somehow."

"Did you already stop calling me Commander? Just how long are you going to keep a grudge over the panties? More importantly, get back. Starting now, I'm going to show you this commander's cool side. Oi Alice! Have the R-Bastard Sword sent here!"

"...What? What are you saying? Do you even know that you've already-"

When Alice was about to say something, the demons began to move.

"No. 6, even I can take care of those demons! It should still be of some help to you!"

Snow stubbornly stood by my side.

I thought she became a little more docile, but she was still a stubborn girl in a time like this.

While the demons surrounding Snow and me were closing the distance, Heine formed a fireball in her hand.

Because the griffin was too big, it didn't come inside the room and was on standby on the balcony.

"Alice, hurry! Please hurry!"

Hearing my desperate cry, Alice laid her shotgun down and started writing something on a memo.

"Don't come to me if something happens because of this!!"

As if Alice's voice signaled an opportunity, the demons came flying all at once.

Although I aimed the barrel at Gadalkand, he just jumped to the side because he wasn't rushing this way like the other demons.

Instead, I fired a shot at the closest demon and took care of it.

Waiting for that gap, a fireball was fired at me.

While the claws of demons were grazing my battle suit, flames erupted.

I kicked away one of the demons that were flying at me and used the recoil to dodge the incoming fireball. While that happened, one of the demons grabbed the gun barrel.

Then next to me, two demons were coming fast.

"No. 6, duck!"

After I followed what the voice said on reflex, something above my head was slashed.

As soon as I raised my head, I saw two demons with their faces cut. They were shrieking in pain and lost their spirit.

"Y-you idiot, what were you going to do if I couldn't react in time!?"

While I was complaining to Snow, Alice shouted to me.

"It's coming! Get it, No. 6!"

White static started appearing in the space in front of me.

After it settled down, a familiar weapon appeared in front of my eyes.

I released the rifle that another demon was holding onto. Then I seized the weapon that appeared in midair with both my hands.

I started it right away, then I tried to cut down the demon that was still clutching the rifle.

The demon that had a hand on the rifle was prepared to receive the attack.

Because of the blade vibrating at high-speeds, the sound of hard metal being cut could be heard.

The rifle that the demon tried to block with was cut into two along with the demon.

"...Oi, you... What, just what...That... Where did you just pull that out from...?"

I left Gadalkand alone while he was dumbstruck and mumbling to himself. The demons that surrounded me started to backpedal after seeing their comrade fall.

"So this is a cutting tool with the long name of Anti-Armor Severing-Type Oscillating Bastard Sword Type-R. Dare I say it's a weapon to take care of small fries like you?"

While answering Gadalkand, I grabbed with both hands the chainsaw that could cut through anything, the R-Bastard Sword.

I don't really know on what principles, but the blade vibrates at a high-frequency because of its engine. Whether it's a car or something hard, it'll cut through it cleanly. Out of the weapons that Kisaragi could be proud of, this amazing weapon is my personal favorite.

I plugged the R-Basso's external connector into my battle suit's terminal.

By doing that, the battle suit's power source can provide additional power to the R-Bastard Sword.

Although it'll only last for one minute, with this technique, I laid to rest a countless number of heroes. It was my trump card.

——-With this, I won't lose.

"Limiter release!"

After hearing that voice, the narration inside my head could be heard.

<The battle suit's safety will be removed. Will this be fine?>

"Hey No. 6, you used that last time against the golem, didn't you!? There are so many demons around, there's also two of the enemy generals left! That's..."

While Snow was shouting from surprise.

"Approved."

After I said the word, the narration continued again.

<If the safety is removed, after a period of one minute without limiter restrictions, approximately three minutes of cooldown will be needed. Will this really be fine?>

"Alice, you stop No. 6 as well! Wasn't this kind of thing always your role!?"

While Snow was still shouting.

"Release it."

Reacting to my voice, the narration began the countdown.

<The safety will be removed. If you want to cancel during the countdown, please shout 'cancel.' 10... 9...>

Everyone inside the room didn't budge an inch.

"Combatant No. 6———!!!"

Just when Heine was about to throw a fireball at me, Alice fired her shotgun at her and shouted.

<6... 5...>

"Do it!!"

My partner had her thumb up. Although she was just an android, she said those words with a great smile.

<— — — —The safety has been removed.>

"My name is Combatant No. 6, a member of the Secret Society Kisaragi! There's no need for two evil organizations, so I'll wipe you out right here!"

"Come at me human! I'll wreck you and feed you to the ogres!!"

As if impatient from waiting around, Gadalkand ran recklessly towards me while swinging his metal club. I raised my speed to the utmost limit and also went at him!

"Snow, get back! I'm going to kill him with my special move!!"

The swinging metal club and the R-Basso crossed paths.

"!?"

The metal club that Gadalkand was wielding was easily cut in half while my slashing Bastard Sword didn't lose any momentum at all.



"Wa-, oi, wait!"

As if drawing a circle, once again, I slashed at Gadalkand.

While Gadalkand was quickly trying to say something, his right arm went flying.

"O-oi, No. 6!? What's a special move!? You should check your surroundings when..."

While I heard Snow shouting in anxiety.

"Eh, Gadalkand!? Hey, you guys! Everyone, quickly get away from that man! Run away——!"

Pivoting around my central axis, I began spinning and mowing down anything that caught my eye.

"Ugh...UAAAAHH——AH!! AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!! UWAAAAAAAAAH!"

Heine was shrieking at the sight of seeing her comrades turned into mincemeat from the R-Bastard Sword.

Because I was spinning around furiously at a high-velocity, I couldn't quite

make out who was who...

"Wait, No. 6... Stop...! I'm going to die as well...!"

Things that move here and there, and things that are pure black.

"Heeek!"

I didn't even know who shouted that, I just shredded anything that entered my field of vision into pieces.

— The battle suit's cooldown started, and my movements finally stopped.

There were pieces laying around that were originally Gadalkand and his underlings.

"Ah... Uwaaah... Haaaaah..."

At the corner of the room was Heine. She was sitting down as if she lost all her strength to stand.

"...Sniffle..."

Tirris was flopped onto the floor behind me.

"Good job—"

Alice was a step ahead of everyone and took shelter near the wall. She told me good job while looking like she was in a good mood.

Beside me was Snow. Her forehead was glued to the ground and she was using both hands to cover her head. She looked just like a turtle.

While taking a peek around the room that became silent, she raised her face that was full of fear. With her eyes holding back tears, Snow and I made eye contact.

"...You... You, you... You, you, you! No. 6, just what was...! I thought I was going to die...! I really thought I was going to die! Just look at this horrible scenery! If even a little went wrong, I would also be like them!"

"That's why I told you since I'm going to use my special move, to get far away."

"...Next time, I want you to tell me at least ten seconds before you use that..."

After Snow got up with tears in her eyes and a sniffing nose, she looked towards Heine who was still sitting listlessly.

"...So, what are you going to do with her? Are you going to use that technique and make mincemeat of her?"

"Heek!"

Because of Snow's words that were said without any thought, Heine's face turned pale and her eyes were brimming with tears.

Forget about using that technique, I can't even move right now.

But it seems like Heine can't process that in her head right now.

"Well, there's no particular reason to keep her alive..."

While loading her shotgun without a care, Alice said those words out loud as if to invoke fear.

"Ah... Ah..."

While looking at Heine holding back tears and trembling in the corner of the room, I had an idea.

"Oi, Heine."

"Yes!"

Heine squeaked hearing my sudden callout.

"I'll overlook this."

A breeze whooshed by and the room became quiet.

"...Sniffle... Sniffle... Sob..."

Heine, for some reason, started to cry.

"Oi, oi, why are you crying!?"

"...N-No. 6-sama... Even if she's a demon, that's... something very unreasonable..."

"...Well, I do pity her, but there's no helping it. Heine of the Flame, just think of it as meeting a bad opponent, and give it up...."

"Wait a second, you guys. Let's talk. I only said I would overlook this."

I guess your usual behavior is really important.

"Then No. 6, are you just going to let her go?"

"There's no way."

Hearing my immediate reply to Alice, Heine had a look of despair.

"It's not even something that difficult, so stop looking like that! Oi, stop! I didn't even do anything yet and I'm viewed as some great villain! You can look at me like that only after I've actually done something!"

"...Then, then... Just what do I have to do...?"

"Let's have a ceasefire, for about one month. That's my condition for overlooking this. If you agree to this, then it's fine to take your underlings and leave."

I said with a smile.

Part 9

"...Is it really alright to only have the ceasefire as a condition?"

Heine rode the griffin and gathered the remaining demons. Snow muttered those words while overlooking Heine leaving the area.

"It's alright. If there's one month, I have a sure-fire plan... Anyways, it somehow worked out. Oi you guys, when you call for me, make sure to call me No. 6-san. Be grateful everyday, no really. It was that great of an achievement today. Especially you Snow, you promised you'd do anything. You probably know what's going to happen. Go into the bathhouse now and make sure you clean yourself up properly."

"...Right, I have to go down and console all of the soldiers that fought hard!"

"Hey No. 6, once you can move again, I want your advice on something so come downstairs then."

Hearing what I said, Tirris and Alice responded as such and left.

"...Well, it's not like I'm particularly lonely. I'm used to this. It doesn't matter if it's just me and Snow alone here."

Left in this room, she said to me while I was talking to myself.

"...So... No. 6, no, I mean C-commander... I know this is a little shameless, but I have a favor to ask..."

Snow said that in an unusually calm tone. She crouched down from where she stood, and picked up something from the ground.

"...So. I'm still a knight, so I really want to be able to ride a unicorn... I understand that I'm asking you something very selfish and shameless..."

She held the thing that she picked up in her hands, and started approaching me while I couldn't move.

That thing was...

Gadalkand's head.

"...I'm sorry, Commander. Of course, I won't ask for anything unreasonable. This is just a favor..."

"Oi stop it, why are you holding that? Why are you coming closer while holding that?"

As if she really was sorry, while her brows were wrinkled,

"Can you please, about... sharing the bed, can you let it go this time..."

"Stop it! What are you trying to do? Even if he was the enemy, it's not right to play with a corpse! Stop where you are, you're too close! Scary, that's scary! Fine, I don't care about the debt or promise! Oi, I said it's too close, I'm about to kiss Gadalkand!"

After hearing that, Snow dropped Gadalkand's head. Then I unleashed my fury on Snow.

"You bitch! I knew it was going to be like that! Astaroth-sama and you too! Girls always just use me when they need something, when I finally get to reap the benefits, they just cry and freeze up! You retard, dumbass! I didn't like you from the first time I met you! Hurry up and leave me here! I don't need anyone!"

While my lips were spewing out curses, something soft gently pressed on them.

Snow used her own lips to take mine.

Her face reddened while I still couldn't move or talk.

"I'm sorry, I hope you can forgive me... with this for now..."

She said that to me while I was still unable to say anything because of the sudden development.

"I don't particularly hate the fact that you... that you like me... Even when you said that you wanted to make love to me, if I were to say I wasn't happy, it'd be a lie... But right now, I still don't really know whether I like or dislike you. However..."

While Snow's pale skin became hotter,

"I don't dislike you as much as when I first met you. I don't really know right now... But from now on, I'm going to give more thoughts about you..."

She put on a gentle smile.

.....?

"What are you going on about? How did it end up with me liking you? That's pretty scary."

.....

"...Huh?"

"Don't 'huh?' me, I'm asking how you came to the conclusion that I like you. I don't remember ever saying that I liked you."

After hearing that, Snow looked like she couldn't understand what I was saying.

"...Uh, I mean, you said you wanted to share a bed with me..."

"That's only because I like your face and body. What I meant was to do it once with no strings attached. Don't make me say it, it's embarrassing. More importantly, I would never go out with someone like you that has a temper problem. You're easily angered and once that happens you start swinging that sword around violently. On top of your greed for success, you're just as greedy for money. Just what about you would I like? Also, you just tried to get away from this with just a kiss..."

Once I said that much, I suddenly realized what was happening.

"Haaah... Aaaahh... Aaaaahhhhh..."

Snow's face became bright red and her eyes were brimming with tears. She was inhaling slowly.

It was as if she was gathering something.

She looked like a kid that was about to cry a river and release all her pent up emotions.

Snow's trembling hand started reaching for the sword on her waist.

"...Calm down, let's talk. So, I can't move right now, you know? If you try to

cut me down, I'll really die, you know?"

"Haaaah... Aaaaaaahhh... Aaaaahhhhhh..."

Snow, after hearing what I said, should know what would happen if she released her pent up anger. As if she was trying to contain it, her body was trembling all over.

But slowly, very slowly, her hand came closer and closer to the handle of the sword...

"Please restrain yourself, Snow. I was in the wrong as well. I said too much. But, if you kill me after making me work so hard, it'll leave a bitter aftertaste in your mouth, you know? Alright, you're someone with a lot of patience! Someone that can do it if she tries! Exhale slowly, and calmly start counting prime numbers."

"O-one... Three... F-Five... Se-se-se-seven....."

<The cooldown period has now ended. You may now use the battle suit's functions.>

As I was running away with all I had, Snow chased me while crying.

"Uuuaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!"

While listening to Snow's shouting that sounded like she was crying,

For the sake of escaping the berserker that was closing in,

"Limiter release! Limiter release-!!"

I started shouting at the top of my lungs— — —



"— — —Alright, you don't have any complaints since I did this much, right?"

It was the dead of night, around 12AM right now.

Since the Demon King's Army retreated, there was no more reason for us to stay here.

"No. 6-sama... Thank you for your hard work. I didn't even imagine that you'd do so much for us. Really, thank you."

"If you really think that way, then it's ok for you to show me a little more sincerity. Write my name down on a page of this kingdom's history, and let it be told to future generations."

From my words, Tirris looked a little shy while she gave a slight nod.

I thought she was just a princess with a black heart, so seeing this honest side of her was a little surprising.

...No, it might be from overcoming this crisis that could've caused the kingdom's ruin that caused her to just act her age?

Tirris probably always showed a dignified appearance because she thought that she had to act properly in place of the moron-like King.

That very princess looked like she wanted to ask me something momentarily.

"...Umm, No. 6-sama.... I'll tell them that I understood to an extent, that you were entrusted with some kind of mission when coming here... So won't you consider becoming a knight of this kingdom, once again...?"

While being a little hesitant, Tirris was explaining her views. I shook my head at Tirris's suggestion.

"Hm. Nah, I'm through with being a knight. Honestly, I'm sick of looking after my strange subordinates."

Tirris looked a little lonely after hearing my answer. Then as if she already knew what I was going to say, she had a bitter smile expressing that there's no helping it.

The two former underlings that heard what I said,

"Do you mean us when you said strange subordinates!? You're going too far! Even if you're the Commander, I'm going to bite you!"

"Commander, are you going to leave even after we shared a special night...? Take responsibility for what you did to me!"

"Oi, oi, stop it, Grimm! Don't say it in a way that others would easily misunderstand! We only dashed around in your new wheelchair... It hurts! Oi, Rose, you stop too! I was wrong, so don't bite me! I said don't bite me!!"

While I pulled Rose off my back as she was biting me, I was getting ready to leave.

"....."

Snow was silently standing behind me.

"...? What is it? Say something. You look scary just standing there silently."

Although I said something that would make her angry, Snow continued to remain silent.

She might've still been angry about what happened before.

"...Oi. Are you not going to come back here anymore?"

She finally opened her mouth, but this girl is...!

"What's with you? Even if you don't chase me off, I wouldn't come back unless I was invited back!"

From my usual offensive way of talking, Snow took a gulp and stopped breathing.

"...A-are you going back to your own country?"

"Well duh, I'm going back. Since there's someone scary if I stay here. Also, we pretty much finished what we had to do here."

Snow slightly lowered her head.

"...Is that so."

"...Why are you acting this way, where did the usual girl with the bad temper go? If you have something you want to say, then hurry up and say it. I have to go when Alice calls for me."

After I said that, Snow clenched her fists tightly.

"...A-as of right now, our kingdom suffered great losses from tonight's fierce battle with the Demon King's Army. Therefore, we're looking for people that could lead a squad or those that possess fighting potential."

".....So?"

After showing a look as if she was hesitant to say what's next,

"...It doesn't matter anymore what kind of person you are. I won't even ask where you came from. If you say you don't want to be a knight because it takes too much effort to look after your subordinates, then... as a mercenary..."

Snow's speech suddenly started slurring.

It seems like she was still caught up over the fact that she was the one who chased me out.

"In other words, you want talent that can contribute to the kingdom's military strength."

"Th-that's right. But I'm not saying that anyone who's only strong can be one..."

Just where did the usual, confident way of talking and impatient personality go?

...God, just how annoying and troublesome can she be?

This is worthy of being relegated to the group that's only filled with problematic folks.

As I was thinking that, I suddenly realized it.

It's not only Snow that was looking at me with puppy eyes, begging me to not abandon her.

As I looked around me, my former underlings and even Tirris were looking at me with anticipation.

Really, just how annoying and troublesome can they be.

My job is to fight.

And there are still many battles that await me on this planet.

The people in front me want someone that can fight.

If that's the case, then I should take advantage of them . There's only one thing left to say.

I looked at the girls in front of me, and confidently said--- --- ---

"--- --- --- How does a Combatant sound?"

Part 10

It was around the middle of the night.

I started to knock on a certain man's room.

"...Who is it?"

"It's me. It's me."

From those words, the man opened the door without a care...

"Is it you, Gia? Or Zakuro? I didn't call for you today, I'm busy right now..."

"It's fine! Old man, it's me, No. 6!"

While I was about to say something, the advisor hurriedly tried to shut the door, but I stuck my boot out.

"Ahhhhhhh! My foooooooooot hurts!"

As soon as the advisor opened the door after being surprised from my yelling, I entered the room very casually. Alice followed up behind me as well.

"What.... Wh-wha-what are you two doing!? Don't just come in!"

While ignoring the advisor that was obviously furious, Alice and I looked around the room.

"...Ooooh, that's the advisor-sama for you. You have so many expensive things..."

"Hey No. 6, even with just a quick glance, I can tell there's a lot of trinkets that total over a billion yen."

For real?

"... If he hands over all his trinkets , I think I'm going to just let him off..."

"Hey, you need to hold back that part of you."

Unable to follow Alice and my conversation, the advisor,

"You people! What business do you have with me at this hour!?"

"Oi, oi, your way of talking is different from your usual, stupidly polite way. Is this your true self?"

"This is just like any small fry. The way he speaks and the way he thinks are different. This guy is a prime example of a villain that's unable to grasp his character."

The advisor lowered his head as if he was enduring something.

".....What business do you have here!?"

"...So about that... How should I say this... I heard a lot of different things from Snow such as you not liking us, so Snow had to snoop around trying to learn our identities... Something like that."

"Mhm. Such as you baiting her with a promotion, which led her to No. 6's room. There, she coincidentally heard us talk. We've received many apologies because of what happened."

From those words, the advisor's face couldn't get any more pale.

"...Ah, no, that's..."

"There's no way, right—? Since you told me I was a hero, back at the meeting."

Because of my lifeline, the advisor happily,

"Yes, that's right! Indeed, No. 6-dono is the hero of our kingdom! How could I hate such a person!?"

"Right? Surely, Snow misheard or something."

From Alice's assist, the advisor repeatedly nodded his head many times.

"Yes! Yes, indeed! ...No, wait? Snow-dono told me that she wanted to cut down No. 6-dono. That girl was originally born in a dirty slum. If it wasn't wartime right now, that girl would only be an ordinary soldier. She was only promoted by chance. Not knowing her place, her true desire came out. She was definitely after my position. By seducing No. 6 dono, she was scheming to-!"

"Really!? That girl's gone too far! Now that I think about it, you know Rose, right? About her... She's looking for some kind of strange rock to follow her

grandpa's will or something. And you guys are exploiting that and working her to the bone, right? Whose idea was that? It's very hard to come up with such a wonderful idea."

"If you mention that, then there was also that plan to gather up all the troublesome people into one group, and to efficiently use them as sacrificial pawns. It's really well thought-out. A very great idea."

From our words, the advisor burst into a smile that nearly covered his whole face.

"Actually, those were my ideas! Tirris-sama is excellent in politics, but since she was raised very sheltered, she's unable to cast away useless people. And that's where I lessened her burden. I'm not just an advisor in title only. Aah, this is a little embarrassing to say myself, but that plan was very well thought-out..."

.....

"Hey Alice, is this enough? It should be enough. He said it from the very start. There's no point in scouting him."

Because of my sudden change in attitude, the advisor was taken aback and he couldn't help staring.

"Seems so. I only considered it because I never met or talked with this old man. This man isn't evil. He's just a very shameless coward... What are you doing No. 6, why are you clutching your chest?"

"Ah, um, I don't really know, but your words seem to struck a chord..."

As I was pressing down on my chest while saying that,

"...Wh-what is this, all of a sudden!? Your change of attitude... I don't know what you don't approve of, but I was wrong. More importantly, from now on..."

The advisor was trying to think up excuses. As soon as Alice threw something on his desk, he flinched and shut his mouth.

The thing that was thrown onto the desk was....

"Wh-what is that?"

It was a lotus root.

"This is the edible part of a lotus. It's healthy and has a lot of remedial effects."

"...Th-that?"

With a deadpan expression, Alice shoved the lotus root in front of the advisor.

"Hey, you. Do you want your asshole to be penetrated by this lotus root?"

"Heeek! How can a brat say such words!? Did you not learn that you should never play with your food!?"

Although Alice looked like a little kid... As if he was unable to withstand the pressure exerted by a member of an evil organization, the advisor's face stiffened while he retreated backwards.

"Can't you just eat it after it's over? Since I can't eat anything, you'd probably have to be the one to eat it."

"Wha- ...Wha-what are you saying...?"

While the advisor was slowly walking backwards, I pulled a piece of what I was holding and a tearing sound could be heard.

"...What, what is that..."

It seems like the advisor was concerned about what I was holding since he asked me what it was.

"So about this... This is a weapon used to punish balding men. It's also known in some parts of the world as duct tape."

"Heeeek! S-stop. What are you thinking? Please stop!"

It seems like the advisor was very worried. He was touching his thinning hair while sincerely begging for mercy.

"Don't worry so much. I'm only going to stick this on your hair and pull it back. It's that kind of simple weapon."

"P-please stop! Please don't do it! Money! If it's money you want, I'll give it to you! S-so please forgive me!"

After putting the lotus root in her other hand, Alice ignored the pleading advisor and with a deadpan expression, she pointed it at his face.

"Hey old man. If you want to become a competent villain..."

Continuing where Alice was going with this, I pulled on the duct tape,

"When you're trying to get rid of someone, at least be prepared for any retribution. ...This is for my cute subordinates. Now, the lotus root or the duct tape. Which do you prefer?"

After hearing what I said, the advisor was crying while looking like he was laughing.

<Atrocity points have been added>

— — —After coming out of the advisor's room, we started walking towards our base in order to get our stuff.

"...Anyway, No. 6. For someone as stupid as you, you came up with a pretty good idea this time."

"Hm? What's this about something good? Also, you don't have to say 'stupid'."

Since I didn't know what she was talking about, I asked a question back.

"...You did that without knowing? About what happened... "

"...?"

I really don't know what she's talking about.

"You promised Snow. About being employed as a combatant."

"Ah, it was about that? It's only till we get back to Japan. Well, since there's a month long ceasefire with the Demon King's Army, if nothing goes wrong, there's a chance to return without fighting even once. So why's that a good thing?"

Although Alice was just an android, she had a frightened expression.

"...Look at your atrocity points right now."

...190 points.

"...Huh? My points went up somehow. Why's that? Why do I have so many points from dropping Snow's panties and harassing the advisor?"

"Look closer. There's something in front of the number of points."

Let's look closer.

.....Minus 190 points.

"What is this?"

"What do you mean 'what is this'? You told me to call for the R-Bastard Sword when you were nowhere close to having the required amount of points."

Huh!?

"Since your points are in the negative, if you casually return to Japan, you'll be immediately captured by the Disciplinary Unit, and you'll face disciplinary action for the amount of negative points you have."

Within our organization, there's something called the Disciplinary Unit.

Normally, there would never be a time when atrocity points fall below zero.

However, there were cases when points were reduced from doing many good deeds or something that would tarnish the name of an evil organization.

When atrocity points are in the negative...

"...About the punishment... I heard that you'll go through something very scary."

"It seems so. It seems like there were some that returned with different personalities."

...Oi, oi, what should I do!?

"Alice! I don't want to go back to Japan!"

While being shaken around by me, Alice was looking at me like I was some kind of rare specimen. With a composed look,

"So, you really did that without knowing... Listen carefully, No. 6. You'll remain here, even when the space used for teleportation stabilizes, you'll continue being employed as a combatant. And you'll continue to earn points. You'll return once the points are in the positive."

"That's it! Well there's still one month until the teleportation machine

stabilizes, there's plenty of time to get my points back to positive."

That's right, I earned more than that amount in a short amount of time.

"If it's you, you'll probably forget about it, Zipper-Man. Remember, your execution is merely postponed right now."

Ah!

"You understand? I'll write the report this time. I'll include things like why you can't return yet. I'll make up something appropriate. Also, I'll stay behind with you until you collect enough points."

"Alice-sama—!"

While Alice was dangling in my arms, just like how one would calm a child, she patted my head.

"Do you really understand? Think of how you'll earn the points, even a second faster."

"Leave it to me, partner! First, I'm going to go where all my squad members are. Then, I'm going to strip everyone!"

When I turned away after saying that,

"Hey, I'm being serious. Also what do you mean 'partner'? I'm a support-type android..."

Although Alice stopped when she was about to say something, I'm going to go earn some points...!

"...A partner?"

I heard her softly utter those words and felt like she didn't really hate the idea.

EPILOGUE



Epilogue

"...What's this?"

After skimming through the report, Astaroth was a little wary and asked Lillith.

"This is Alice's proposal. I actually think it's pretty reasonable and great."

Even though Lillith said that somewhat happily, Astaroth's hand reached for her forehead.

"This... This isn't how an evil organization would act, it's more like we're on the side of justice...?"

"No, no. This would solve our problem regarding what to do with the combatants after Earth is conquered. I don't think it's a bad suggestion. Well, after we get rid of the ones that were frequently mentioned in the reports, we can just start the invasion of the planet again. Until then, let's just continuously send combatants over while we take it easy trying to take over the Earth."

Hearing Lillith's suggestion,

"...I guess there's no helping it. Since it seems like it'll take even longer than what we expected to conquer Earth. But..."

Astaroth looked towards the corner of the conference room.

There...

"Combatant F No. 18! Combatant F No. 19! You should already know why I called you here!"

"Please leave it to me, Belial-sama! It was the Hero that started it this time! While I was doing my best carrying out evil acts, this man tried to stop me!"

"Don't be ridiculous, Faustress of the Wind! What you were doing wasn't anything evil, it was just some petty crime! Belial-sama, I was just trying to stop him from running wild!"

The two men that were giving their excuses to Belial.

Between the two, one could only be described as a monster, while the other had the unique aura of a hero.

"Shut up, this doesn't change the fact that you guys fought! Conflicts within the organization are forbidden! Also, don't make me keep saying this! It's not 'Hero', it's Combatant F No. 18! Not wind or whatever, it's Combatant F No. 19! If you keep saying the same thing as No. 6 about being a hero and whatnot, know that there's no coming back after becoming just like him! Also you can only attach the epithet, 'of the Wind' only after you become a general! Do you understand!?"

""Yes, Yes-ma'am! ""

The two apprentice combatants responded appropriately and saluted.

"...Hey, who are those two? One of them gives off a hero vibe, while the other looks like a monster."

"Oh, those two? According to Belial, they suddenly appeared in her yard, and were fighting each other. So she gave those two a good beating, and brought them in as apprentice combatants. That Combatant F No. 19 said that he was trying to send himself and the Hero to something of the flame, but somehow ended up next to Blazing Belial-sama... Something like that, he only said stuff that I couldn't really understand."

.....

"That girl... Not just dogs or cats, now she's even picking up stray heroes and monsters? ...Gosh, No. 6 didn't even mention that he was staying behind over there. I don't even know what everyone's thinking anymore... "

"...If it's like what he said, there's a high ratio of women to men over there because of the war. Also, I think he mentioned that most of them were beauties. Anyway, there are many things on that planet that draws my interest. It's a world overflowing with exciting and mysterious things!"

After saying that, Lillith left the room while breathing roughly.

"...H-he's going to return, right? He won't say something like he's going to stay there forever since he married a local, right? ...B-Belial, I'll leave the report here! Hey Lillith, No. 6 is going to return for sure, right!?"

While flustered, Astaroth left the report on the desk and chased after Lillith.

【Final Report】

Successfully obtained a base at the present location.

It's possible to start receiving monsters or combatants at any time.

In addition, due to his strong ambitions, Combatant No. 6 is out resuming the investigation of the current location.

Thanks to No. 6's hint, I've found a solution to the problem regarding the lack of missions for combatants upon the completion of Earth's invasion.

The solution to the lack of missions will be explained in the attached Plan to Dispatch Combatants.

In addition, as of now, invasion doesn't seem to be a good plan.

At least, go forward with the invasion after eliminating the local competition.

There are many areas such as the Great Forest that still need to be investigated.

Also, there's confirmation on the existence of out-of-place artifacts that surpass Earth's technology.

On that basis, I am submitting this final report while proposing a more cautious approach regarding the invasion.

【Outline of the Plan to Dispatch Combatants】

Exploit the undeveloped land, and investigate the ecosystem.

Either destroy the competition known as the 'Demon King's Army' or dissolve the organization and assimilate them.

Investigate the planet's unidentified out-of-place artifacts and ruins.

Fulfill the requests of the natives, such as the commission to exterminate protozoa.

The Secret Society Kisaragi should make a contract with these people, and let them have the task of dispatching combatants.

Furthermore, I nominate Combatant No. 6 to be the branch head of this

location since the natives trust him deeply.

Final report by Combatant No. 6's partner: Kisaragi Alice

Afterword

For first timers, it's a pleasure to meet you.

I'm something between a NEET and a writer, Akatsuki Natsume.

I sincerely thank you for purchasing a copy of *Combatants Will Be Dispatched!*

This piece of work was revised from what I published on a novel submission site known as *Let's Become A Novelist*.

This was written before my other series, *Konosuba*, and was finally published after going through various circumstances.

This story in a nutshell is about a certain evil organization's lowly combatant being dispatched somewhere far away.

I'm not sure if this should be classified as sentai, sci-fi, or fantasy.

Well, I guess this book's main genre is comedy.

Now, this story isn't really about defeating the Demon King and protecting world peace.

After No. 6 and his partner Alice are sent to an unknown planet, they explore the undeveloped lands with modern weapons and super technology, fight the Demon King, run away from the local wildlife, investigate the mysteries of that planet, *etc.* There will be many different things happening.

Please continue reading to find out just how the story will unfold.

— — —In making this book possible, I've received so much help whether it was looking through a certain author's manuscript, or listening to his comments.

I didn't mention a name, but Nagatsuki Tappei-Sensei, thank you so much.

Also, starting with the one who drew the amazing illustrations, Kakao Lanthanum-sensei; my editor; the person in charge of sales; the person in charge of design; the proofreader; and others, I truly thank you all for making

this book possible.

I apologize beforehand for possibly causing many inconveniences since I'm not only working on *Konosuba* anymore.

I'm receiving complaints to work very hard right now to not cause any more inconveniences. I'm sorry!

Every time I submit a manuscript, I feel like I'm always apologizing to various people.

With that said, these will be my final words.

To all the readers that grabbed a copy of this book: Thank you so much!

—Akatsuki Natsume